



# North Carolina Medical Board

John W. Rusher, MD, JD: President | Michaux R. Kilpatrick, MD, PhD: President-Elect | Christine M. Khandelwal, DO: Secretary/Treasurer

May 18, 2022

## **Via Attorney of Record**

Joel Larry Sebastien, M.D.  
A New Dimension  
116 Main St NW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

Dear Dr. Sebastien:

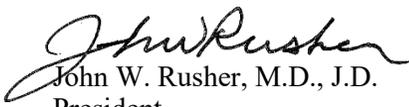
The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation regarding your care of Patient A. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license. However, the Board voted to issue you this public letter of concern. The Board does not consider a public letter of concern to be a disciplinary action or a limitation or restriction on your license.

The Board is concerned that after performing a laparoscopic vertical sleeve gastrectomy on Patient A on December 4, 2017, you failed to give proper postoperative care, including failing to recognize that Patient A was experiencing a postoperative bleed, the severity of that bleed, and failing to return to the operating room in a timely manner, all of which resulted in Patient A’s death. Despite being called multiple times with updates on Patient A’s condition, including updates which indicated that Patient A was unstable, persistently hypotensive, acidotic, and under resuscitated, you remained unavailable for 18 hours after the surgery and relied on other intensivists to manage Patient A’s postoperative complications. The Board is also concerned that you failed to keep adequate postoperative progress notes.

The Board is concerned that your care of Patient A may have failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina. The Board urges you to take steps to ensure the conduct giving rise to the Board’s concerns does not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may take additional action against your license to practice medicine. If that happens, this letter may be reviewed in determining the appropriate action.

This letter is a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is subject to public inspection and dissemination as required by that law. It will be reported to the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Sincerely,

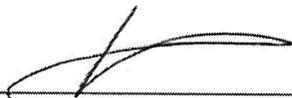
  
John W. Rusher, M.D., J.D.  
President

JWR/MJ/las

Consent and Waiver

I, Joel Larry Sebastien, M.D., would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of this public letter of concern in resolution of the above matter. I hereby waive any requirement under any law or rule that this public letter of concern be served on me.

Consented to this the 17 day of MAY, 2022.

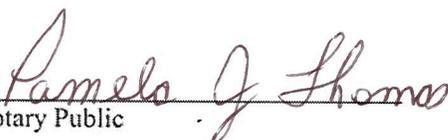
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joel Larry Sebastien, M.D.

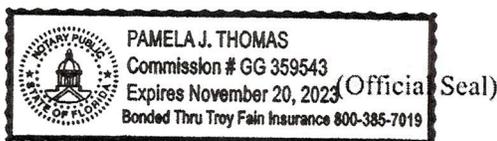
State of FLORIDA

County of VOLUSIA

I, PAMELA J. THOMAS, do hereby certify that Joel Larry Sebastien, 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



My Commission Expires: 11-20-23

**North Carolina Medical Board**