BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:	)	
	)	
Lisa Gholston Cox, M.D.,	)	**CONSENT ORDER**
	)	
Respondent.	)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Lisa Gholston Cox, M.D. ("Dr. Cox"). Dr. Cox makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

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 to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Cox was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about March 27, 1993, license number 36628.

At all times relevant hereto, Dr. Cox practiced internal medicine in Lumberton, North Carolina.

In September 2023, the Board received information from the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP") that a physician ("Physician A") who was an anonymous participant with NCPHP had failed to comply with Physician A's NCPHP contract by testing positive for a controlled substance, resulting in an anonymity break.

During the Board's investigation into Physician A, the Board reviewed the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System ("NCCSRS"), which revealed that Dr. Cox, later determined to be a colleague of Physician A, prescribed alprazolam (Xanax), 0.5 mg tablets, a Schedule IV controlled substance, to Physician A on the following dates:

- **September 26, 2022, 30 tablets, one (1) refill;**
- **November 15, 2022, 30 tablets, one (1) refill;**
- **August 2, 2023, 15 tablets, no refill; and,**
- **August 22, 2023, 30 tablets, one (1) refill.**

Dr. Cox admitted to the Board she prescribed Physician A alprazolam to treat Physician A's chronic insomnia, prior to having a documented physician-patient relationship and that she did not perform an examination of Physician A before prescribing alprazolam. Dr. Cox acknowledged she had no knowledge that Physician A should not be taking controlled substance medications and was not aware of Physician A's specific health care before September 2022.

Additionally, Dr. Cox only documented her prescribing of alprazolam to Physician A on August 23, 2023, even though she had previously prescribed it three (3) times to Physician A prior to August 2023.

Dr. Cox's prescribing violated the Board's position statement "4.1.2 Writing of Prescriptions," which in relevant part states:

- **No prescription should be issued for a patient in the absence of a documented and established licensee-patient relationship. A licensee-patient relationship should be based on an appropriate history and physical examination in addition to overall care that is consistent with the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice.**
- **Licensees should not write prescriptions for professional colleagues or other coworkers in the absence of a documented and established licensee-patient relationship.**

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Cox's conduct, as described above, constitutes unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, a 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), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke,

condition, or limit Dr. Cox's license to practice medicine or to deny any application she may make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

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

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

Dr. Cox acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Cox desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

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

ORDER

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

1. Dr. Cox is hereby REPRIMANDED.

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

3. Dr. Cox hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

4. Upon execution by Dr. Cox 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 including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 13th day of May, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: Christine Khandelwal, DO

Christine M. Khandelwal, D.O., MHPE
President

Consented to this the 8th day of May, 2024.

Lisa Gholston Cox, M.D.

Lisa Gholston Cox, M.D.

State of NC

County of Robeson

I, Crystal Elks, do hereby certify that Lisa Gholston Cox, 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 8 day of May, 2024.

Crystal Elks

Notary Public

CRYSTAL ELKS NOTARY PUBLIC ROBESON COUNTY, NC

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 10/06/27