

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Irwin August, M.D. License Number DO-00549  
Controlled Substances Registration Number CDO-00549  
BMLD Case Number C08-620**

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF PHYSICIAN LICENSE**

Irwin August, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island, and has a controlled substances registration in the State of Rhode Island. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") and the Board makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent is a licensed physician in the State of Rhode Island and was issued his license on August 15, 2002. He is 82 years old, and has worked part time at offices in Madison, Connecticut, and Fall River, Massachusetts. His primary specialty is psychiatry, and his secondary specialty is geriatric psychiatry. He is a 1992 graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.
2. On October 30, 2008, the Medical Staff Executive Committee of the Eleanor Slater Hospital complained to the Board about their observations of Respondent in the work environment.

3. The Board ordered the Respondent to undergo a particular type of health care evaluation, and the provider who evaluated him recommended several steps that would allow Respondent to continue to practice medicine, including a follow-up evaluation within one year the report to provide additional information.
4. The Board wrote to Respondent after the year had passed and asked him to answer in writing when he last practiced medicine in Rhode Island, and whether he had the follow up evaluation; and the Board's Chief Administrative Officer has spoken with Respondent by telephone to remind him that the need to complete the evaluation remains a condition of the Respondent keeping his physician license.
5. Respondent's business address provided to Connecticut officials was his home address; but his Connecticut address given to the Drug Enforcement Administration was 4 Grove Beach Road North in Westbrook, Connecticut; and Respondent's wife has indicated that he worked there one day a week seeing Suboxone patients.
6. Respondent's wife has indicated to Board staff that he worked one day a week in Fall River, Massachusetts, to meet with other Suboxone patients, some of whom he has prescribed Suboxone to using his Rhode Island controlled substances registration number.
7. On January 17, 2013, the Investigative Committee voted that there existed, during that point in the investigation of the complaint, sufficient probable cause that allegations of misconduct against Respondent were caused by an impairment which has directly affected his ability to conduct his practice professionally. As a

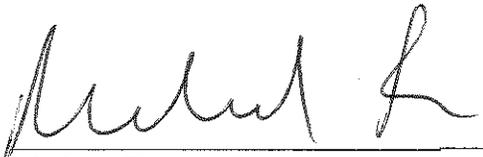
- result, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37-1.3(10)(i), he was ordered to undergo an immediate health care examination, by a particular type of specialist, to secure a report pertaining to his medical and other fitness to practice medicine, and to deliver it to the Board by January 24, 2013. Respondent was notified that his failure to undergo this immediate examination and timely submit the requested report might result in immediate suspension of his physician license by the Board.
8. Respondent has failed to call the Board as requested in numerous messages that have been left on his home telephone answering machine between January 24 and the date of this Order.
  9. Respondent is in civil violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 5-37-5.1(23) for failure furnish the Board and its Chief Administrative Officer with information legally requested by the board in relation to further health care examination as required pursuant to the Board's authority in § 5-37-1.3(10)(i).

### **ORDER**

After considering the above findings, the Director of the Department of Health has determined that the continuation of the practice of medicine by the Respondent would constitute an immediate danger to the public, and the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively requires emergency action. It is accordingly ordered that:

1. The Respondent is hereby suspended from practicing medicine until further Order of the Department of Health, Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 5-37-8 and 42-35-14(c).
2. The Respondent is entitled to an administrative hearing on this suspension within ten (10) days of this Order pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §5-37-8.

Ordered this 27th day of June, 2013.



Michael Fine, M.D.  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Health

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of this SUMMARY SUSPENSION was sent by certified mail on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2013, to Irwin August, D.O., at his home address that he has listed with the Department of Health.

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