

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:  
BRUCE W. HOOKWAY, M.D. License Number MD 06037  
Controlled Substances Registration Number CMD 06037**

**VOLUNTARY SURRENDER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGISTRATION**

Bruce W. Hookway, MD (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in the State of Rhode Island. The respondent is licensed to prescribe controlled substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act pursuant to R.I. General Laws 21-28. The respondent has a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration Registration to prescribe controlled substances.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Respondent has a pattern of prescribing controlled substances to patients in a manner that does not meet the standards of acceptable practice.
2. The Respondent met with the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline in 2008 concerning his practice of prescribing controlled substances. The case of Patient A was reviewed.
3. Patient A is a young male who had presented with low back pain 3 years prior who had initially been treated with non-narcotic medications but was shortly thereafter transitioned to narcotics. At the time of the Board review he was receiving OxyContin 200 mg twice daily. The well documented medical record detailed all prescriptions. There was notation of phone calls from

family members expressing concern that the patient was abusing his medication, and another during which the patient called to confess that he was “hooked on narcotics and buying significant amounts on the street to prevent withdrawal”, and the physician’s own suspicion of narcotic abuse. The medical record was also remarkable for its total lack of any imaging studies, sub-specialty consultation, use of a narcotics contract, or even a specific diagnosis beyond “back pain”.

4. At this meeting the Respondent was informed that his practice was negligent and potentially dangerous.
5. Subsequently, the Board received complaints that he excessively dosed narcotics including Oxycontin, Oxycodone, and Methadone to a patient, Patient B.
6. Patient B was a middle aged male patient with history of drug abuse who had been in an opiate treatment program while simultaneously receiving narcotic prescriptions for miscellaneous injuries by Respondent subsequently left the Opiate Treatment Program and continued to receive chronic narcotic therapy from Respondent with Methadone and other Controlled Substances.
7. Respondent failed to meet the minimum standard of acceptable practice in violation of RIGL § 5-37-5.1(19).

**The parties agree as follows:**

The Respondent is a physician with an active Medical License 06037. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

- (1) Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is effective immediately.
- (2) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
  - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
  - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
  - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
  - e. The right to further procedural steps except as specifically contained herein;
  - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
  - h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;
  - i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order.

- (3) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an admission by the Respondent of the facts set forth in paragraphs 1 through 7, inclusive, of the Findings Of Fact section herein. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and by the Board. Neither this Consent Order nor any findings or statement herein shall be used in any future judicial proceedings unrelated to medical licensure to establish any of the facts, findings or conclusions contained herein.
- (4) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to disciplinary action.
- (5) The Respondent agrees to undergo a formal remedial education program in narcotics prescribing acceptable to the Board.
- (6) The Respondent agrees to surrender his RI Controlled Substances and Federal DEA Registrations and to discontinue all prescribing of Controlled Substances.
- (7) The Respondent accepts a sanction of 2 years Probation.
- (8) The Respondent shall volunteer ½ day per month during the probation period at the RI Free Clinic.
- (9) The Respondent shall pay an administrative fee of \$500 within 60 days of this order.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

Bruce W. Hookway, M.D.  
Bruce W. Hookway MD

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on this 1 day of April 2009.

David R. Gifford  
David R. Gifford, MB, MPH  
Director of Health  
R.I. Department of Health  
Cannon Building, Room 401  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097  
Tel. (401) 222-2231  
Fax (401) 222-6548

**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this VOLUNTARY SURRENDER ORDER was sent via hand delivery to the Respondent on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2009 at the following addresses:

Bruce Hookway, M.D.  
Blackstone Valley Health  
42 Park Place  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Rosalia Julian