

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

**IN THE MATTER OF
EDWARD L. CULLEN, MD
LICENSE NUMBER MD 06237**

**C12-203
C11-186**

**Consent Order
Voluntary Suspension of License**

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (2009 Reenactment) a notification was received by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") regarding Edward L. Cullen, M.D. (hereinafter the "Respondent") from the Board of Pharmacy which expressed concerns over highly irregular prescribing issues. This matter was referred to an Investigating Committee of the board for review and recommendation. The following are findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Respondent is a 63 year old physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island since 1983. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. He claims hospital privileges at the St. Joseph's Hospital. His principal place of employment is the Garden City Treatment Center, a licensed free standing emergency room, located in Cranston, Rhode Island.
2. The Board of Pharmacy undertook an investigation following complaint from a pharmacy that alleged that the Respondent was prescribing large amounts of Drug

Enforcement Agency Schedule II and III drugs which did not appear to have legitimate medical purposes.

3. The Boards of Medical Licensure and Discipline and Pharmacy undertook a more expansive review of the Respondent's prescribing practices after a second complaint was received while the Boards were investigating the initial complaint. In all, the Board selected 19 "patient" records for review. The following are the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline's conclusions concerning the professional actions of the Respondent:
 - a. The Respondent wrote prescriptions for OxyContin and Vicodin for at least two people who were never patients of the Respondent and for whom no patient charts existed;
 - b. Multiple narcotic prescriptions that are not documented in the medical records;
 - c. A failure to meet the minimal standards of acceptable care for prescribing opioids for patients who are using opioids chronically (lack of monitoring, pain treatment agreements, informed consent);
 - d. There was a lack of a meaningful physical examinations (patient history such as documented inquiry concerning alcohol use, suicide risk) and troubling medical decision-making;
 - e. The Board of Pharmacy found that a certain patient received 814 days of narcotics in 356 calendar days.

4. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline finds that the Respondent failed to meet the minimum standard of acceptable practice in violation of RIGL § 5-37-5.1(19) for writing prescriptions for narcotics where no meaningful medical need was present and for whom no doctor patient relationship existed.

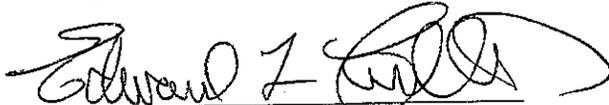
The parties agree as follows:

Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

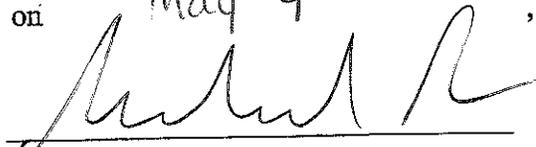
- (1) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
 - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
 - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
 - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
 - e. The right to further procedural steps except for specifically contained herein;
 - f. Any and all rights of appeal of the terms 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
- (2) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an acknowledgment by the Respondent that the findings of fact were made by the Board.
- (3) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties.
- (4) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, may subject the Respondent to further action.
- (5) The Respondent hereby agrees to a voluntary suspension of his license to practice medicine in Rhode Island until further order of the Board.

- (6) The Board agrees to review the status of Respondent's license upon Respondent's completion of additional training and any other steps deemed necessary to allow for reconsideration of this Order.

Signed this 4th day of MAY, 2012.


Edward L. Cullen, MD

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held
on May 9, 2012


MICHAEL FINE, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH