

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
**D E P A R T M E N T O F H E A L T H**

*Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities*

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND  
DISCIPLINE**

**No. C003-071, C005-750**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
Norman Chou, M.D.  
License Number 10385**

**Consent Order**

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (2002 Reenactment) a notification was received by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline [Board] regarding Norman Chou, M.D. ("Respondent"). 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 physician born 5-30-1970 who has been licensed to practice medicine in Rhode Island since 2000. He is a 1996 graduate of the Brown Medical School and completed internship at Carney Hospital in Boston and residency in Emergency Medicine at Detroit Medical Center in Detroit. His primary area of practice is Emergency Medicine. He is a staff Emergency Medicine physician at the Kent Hospital and was previously on staff at the Roger Williams General Hospital.

2. The Board became aware of several patient cases managed by the Respondent; Two (2) referenced specifically in this order and one (1) earlier case.
3. The Board conducted an investigation of the two referenced cases and reviewed its previous findings in the third older case and found deficiencies in the Respondent's care, primarily in the areas of recognition and interpretation of abnormal test results, clinical diagnosis, recruitment of hospital resources, and discharge planning.
4. The Board found Respondent failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in violation of § 5-37-5.1(19).

**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 admission by the Respondent that the findings of fact were made by the Board but not an admission to the findings themselves. Neither this Consent Order nor any finding or statement therein shall be used in any future judicial proceedings to establish any of the facts, findings or conclusions contained herein.
  - (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, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.
  - (5) Respondent hereby consents to a **probation** for two years to begin with the ratification of this order.
  - (6) During those two years, Respondent agrees to enter into a formal mentorship relationship with an on-site senior physician approved by the Board comprised of a planned program of structured case review, continuing education in emergency medicine and patient communication reasonably recommended by the mentor, and whatever other professional development activities that may be reasonably recommended by the mentor. The mentor will report to the Board quarterly.
  - (7) During the period of probation, Respondent agrees to limit his practice in Rhode Island to the Kent Hospital or any other facility that the Board may subsequently

approve, which approval will not unreasonably be withheld, and to adhere to the duty hours recommendations of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

- (8) Respondent's probationary status will be lifted after two (2) years upon application to the Board.
- (9) Respondent agrees to pay an administrative fee of ONE THOUSAND (\$1000.00) DOLLARS within 60 days of ratification of this Order.

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006.

  
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Norman Chou, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

  
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David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Director of Health