

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:  
ROBERT J. VILLARREAL, MD  
MD13216**

**C11-623**

**Summary Suspension**

The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the “Board”) has received information concerning the professional activities of Robert J. Villarreal, MD, (hereinafter the “Respondent”) a licensed physician in Rhode Island who was a Junior Attending Surgeon until June 30, 2011 at Rhode Island Hospital. The Board and the Office of the Director of Health make the following:

**Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

1. Respondent is a 32-year-old physician who has been fully licensed to practice in Rhode Island since 2010. He previously held training licenses from July 2005 through June 2010. He served as a “junior attending” during his last year at the hospital ending June 30, 2011. He is a 2005 Graduate of Brown University School of Medicine.
2. The Drug Enforcement Administrations (“DEA”) commenced an investigation of Respondent’s prescription drug use. DEA found that Respondent was writing and filling prescriptions for Percocet, Vicodin, Adderall, and Ativan on a Rhode Island Hospital prescription pad that is used primarily for post graduate training residents and their training supervisors. The scheme began in 2009 and continued through August 3, 2011 when he was arrested.

3. According to the DEA Affidavit, Respondent wrote and authorized prescriptions for other Rhode Island Hospital employees for Vicodin and Adderall, instructed them to fill both prescriptions and return the Adderall pills to Respondent. On occasion they would also be instructed to return the Vicodin pills.
4. After being informed of his "Miranda Rights", the Respondent admitted to writing prescriptions for Adderall for himself and forged the names of several physicians who he met during his training program. It appears that these other physicians were unaware of the forgeries.

### ORDER

After considering the Affidavit filed by the DEA, and investigative findings of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, it has been determined that the continuation of the practice of medicine by the Respondent would constitute an immediate danger to the public. Accordingly, Respondent is suspended from practicing medicine until further Order of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. The Respondent is entitled to an administrative hearing on this suspension Order within 10 days of this Order pursuant to RIGL § 5-37-8.

  
Michael Fine, M.D.  
Director of Health

8/4/11  
Date

### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of this Summary Suspension ORDER was sent via email and regular mail to Robert Javier Villarreal, M.D. through his attorney of record, Mary S. McElroy, Assistant Federal Public Defender, 10 Weybosset St., Suite 300, Providence, RI 02903 on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

