STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE

In the matter of:  
SUHDONG HAHN, M.D.  
License Number MD04681  
Complaint Number C13-625

CONSENT ORDER

Suhdong Hahn, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island. After a review of the complaint, records, and appearances by Respondent before the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline's (hereinafter "Board") investigative committee, the Director of the Department of Health makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Suhdong Hahn, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") has been a licensed physician since March 13, 1974, and he has an active emeritus license. His practice is located at 333 School Street, Suite 107, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He is a 1967 graduate of the Seoul National University Faculty School of Medicine. He is a cardioligist.

2. On April 24, 2012, Respondent had a regularly scheduled appointment to see Patient, A, alias, a female. She waited until July 2013 to complaint to the Board that Respondent performed a breast examination in April 2012 without announcing he was about to do it. Her description of the examination was that it was brief and not thorough.
3. Respondent reported to the Board that he has seen Patient A since March 2003, and he performs a breast examination every year. He told the Board’s investigative committee that he did not perform a full breast examination and was looking to find only large masses.

4. Based on the foregoing, Respondent is in civil violation of Rhode Island General Laws §5-37-5.1(19).

Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

2. Respondent has reviewed this Consent Order and understands that it is subject to final approval of the Board; and this Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.

3. If ratified by the Board, 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 on 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 those 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.
4. Respondent shall comply with “The Physician’s Guidelines for Intimate Examinations” approved in advance by the Board, including its recommendation for use of a chaperone in certain situations.

5. Upon ratification of this Order, if Respondent begins to see any patient as his or her primary care provider, Respondent shall notify the Board, and shall have six months from the date of such notification to complete 20 hours of continuing medical education in women’s health.

6. Respondent agrees to pay an administrative fee to the Board for costs associating with investigating this complaint. Respondent shall submit to the Board within sixty (60) days a check made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasury for the amount of $600.00. Respondent agrees to a reprimand for this complaint.

7. In the event that any conditions of this Consent Order are violated after it is ratified, the Director of the Department of Health shall have the discretion to impose disciplinary action, including summarily suspending the Respondent’s license to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island. If the Director suspends such license, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within ten (10) days of the suspension. The Director of the Department of Health shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to Respondent of any violation of this Consent Order.
Signed this 31st day of Dec., 2013.

Sudhong Hahn, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 11th day of December, 2013.

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