

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:
YOGESH B. PANCHOLI, M.D.
License Number MD 10616**

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Yogesh B. Pancholi, MD (hereinafter “Respondent”) is a 40 year old physician who is a 1997 graduate of New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and has been licensed as a physician in the State of Rhode Island since June 13, 2001. His primary area of practice is walk-in treatment centers. Additionally, he has been authorizing patients to apply for a medical marijuana card from the Department of Health.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent came to Rhode Island from New York where he was being monitored by NY Committee for Physicians Health beginning in March 2000. His monitoring contract responsibilities were transferred to the Rhode Island Medical Society Physician Health Committee.
2. The Respondent has had a series of compliance issues with his monitoring and treatment at the Physician Health Committee leading to a 2007 in-patient evaluation at the Farley Center where he was diagnosed with an impairing disorder, alcohol abuse, and marijuana abuse. He later had an involuntary admission to a hospital for evaluation.
3. The Respondent also bought substances over the internet which were designed to provide false negative readings for substance abuse monitoring by the Physician Health Committee.
4. The Respondent has been under investigation by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline for drug diversion and prescribing controlled substances inappropriately.

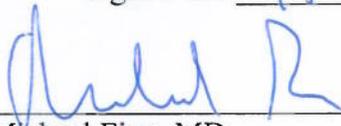
5. Respondent has advertised his medical marijuana business in a local magazine where he offered to teach people how to grow marijuana and perform the evaluations which he charged between \$350 and \$400 (cash only) per patient.
6. The Respondent was informed by the Physician Health Committee that he had to stop performing these evaluations and re-enter an evaluation and treatment program.
7. The Respondent abandoned certain records of his practice, including the names of his medical marijuana patients, which were found by his landlord in his former office in Pawtucket. This is a violation of the Confidentiality of Health Care Information and Communications Act, R.I.G.L. § 5-37.3-4 and the confidentiality provisions of the Medical Marijuana Act, R.I.G.L. § 21-28.6-6(j). Therefore, the Respondent is subject to discipline by the board for unprofessional conduct in violation of R.I.G.L. § 5-37-5.1 (19) for failing to conform to the minimum standards of professional practice.
8. The Physician Health Committee has referred the Respondent to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. This matter was presented to the Director of Health for immediate action.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, the Director of Health has determined that the continuation of the practice of medicine by Yogesh B. Pancholi, MD constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public. Accordingly, Yogesh B. Pancholi, MD is hereby suspended from practicing medicine forthwith pursuant to R.I. General Laws §5-37-8. This suspension will remain in full force and effect until further action of the Board.

The Respondent may request a hearing on this matter to be will be scheduled within ten (10) days of the effective date below, if so requested.

Signed this 13th day of April 2011.



Michael Fine, MD
Interim Director of Health

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this Summary Suspension Order was sent via hand delivery and facsimile to the Respondent's attorney on this 13th day of April 2011 at the following addresses:

Robert B. Mann, Esq.
501 Turk's Head Place
Providence, RI 02903