

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND
DISCIPLINE**

No. C11-602

**IN THE MATTER OF
Yusef Haj-Darwish, M.D.
License Number: MD 09699**

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to R.I. General Laws §5-37-5.2, a notification was received by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter "Board") regarding Yusef Haj-Darwish, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent"). This matter was referred to the Investigating Committee of the Board for investigation and recommendation. Based on the foregoing, the Board makes the following:

FINDING OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent received his medical degree from the University of Aleppo on August 1, 1987, and has been licensed as a physician in the State of Rhode Island since March 9, 1998. The Respondent's principal place of business is Woonsocket Urgent Care, located at 25 John A Cummings Way, Woonsocket, RI 02895.
2. The Boards of Pharmacy and Medical Licensure and Discipline received a complaint on September 6, 2011, alleging that the Respondent failed to properly care for a patient suspected of contracting bacterial meningitis.
3. On June 25, 2011, the patient arrived at Woonsocket Urgent Care complaining of a headache and fever. Respondent ordered an IV catheter for hydration, broad spectrum antibiotic Rocephin, and pain reliever Toradol; and later ordered ten (10) milligrams of Decadorn IV.

4. After further testing, respondent discussed the results with the patient and family, and a determination was made for the patient to be evaluated at an emergency room. Patient traveled to Landmark Medical Center by a privately owned vehicle.
5. Patient arrived at Landmark Medical Center where she subsequently suffered a seizure. Landmark later diagnosed bacterial meningitis and treated the patient.
6. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline concluded that these actions by Respondent actions constituted unprofessional conduct described by R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37-5.1(19) by failing to diagnose and appropriately refer the patient to an appropriate care facility and thus failing to meet the minimum standard of adequate care. Failure to notify the facility that a patient with a serious infectious disease would be arriving there resulted in bystanders being unnecessarily exposed to meningitis and therefore needing prophylactic treatment.

Based on the foregoing, the Parties agree as follows:

- (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.

(3) Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

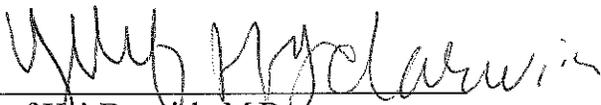
(4) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties.

(5) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

(6) Respondent is hereby issued a Reprimand by the Board.

(7) Respondent agrees to attend the Colorado Physician Education Program within six (6) months from the date of ratification and to send the results to the Board.

Signed this 8th day of March, 2013.



Yusef Haj-Darwish, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held

on March 13, 2013.



Michael Fine, MD
Director of Health