

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF MEDICINE**

**IN RE:** :  
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**SHABNAM DADGAR, M.D.** :  
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**License No.: MD039475** :  
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**Respondent** :

This matter comes before the District of Columbia Board of Medicine (the “Board” or “D.C. Board”) pursuant to the Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA). D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01, *et seq.* (2016 Repl.). The HORA authorizes the Board to regulate the practice of medicine in the District of Columbia. The Board has broad jurisdiction to impose a variety of disciplinary sanctions upon a finding of a violation of the HORA. D.C. Official Code, § 3-1201.03; *Mannan v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 558 A.2d 329, 333 (D.C. 1989). The Council of the District of Columbia, in amending the HORA, “intended to strengthen enforcement of its licensing laws.” *Davidson v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 562 A.2d 109, 113 (D.C. 1989). And the HORA “was designed to ‘address modern advances and community needs *with the paramount consideration of protecting the public interest.*’” *Joseph v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 587 A.2d 1085, 1088 (D.C. 1991) (*quoting* Report of the D.C. Council on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs on Bill 6-317, at 7 (November 26, 1985)) (emphasis added by court).

**Background**

Dr. Shabnam Dadgar (Respondent) has been licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia since August 29, 2011. She is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology.

Respondent is also licensed in Maryland. On June 15, 2021, the Maryland Board of Physicians (“Maryland Board”) imposed a reprimand and placed certain permanent restrictions on her practice. *See Attachment A, Final Decision and Order, (“2021 Maryland Order”),* attached to and incorporated herein.

The Maryland Board had received three separate complaints about, among other things, Respondent’s diagnoses, and performance of unnecessary and painful treatments. Following investigation including peer review, Respondent was charged with “unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine, gross overutilization of health care services, failure to meet appropriate standards as determined by appropriate peer review for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care (“standard of care”), and failure to keep adequate medical records as determined by appropriate peer review.” *Id.* p.1. Specifically, the Maryland Board alleged Respondent “violated the standard of care by performing cryosurgery without medical indication, failed to keep adequate medical records, grossly over utilized services by over-performing sonograms and cryosurgery, and that overall Dr. Dargar’s was guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine.” *Id.*

An evidentiary hearing was held before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ issued a proposed decision finding that Respondent failed to meet the standard of care (violating Health Occ. §§ 14-404(a)(22)) and failed to keep adequate medical records (violating Health Occ. §§ 14-404(a)(40)). Following an exceptions hearing, the Maryland Board adopted the ALJ’s Findings of Facts and concluded that Respondent had failed to meet the standard of care (violating Health Occ. §§ 14-404(a)(22)) and failed to keep adequate medical records (violating Health Occ. §§ 14-404(a)(40)).

Specifically, the Maryland Board found that Respondent's use of cryosurgery for two patients with cervicitis without indicating if it was acute or chronic cervicitis, and without first attempting to treat with less invasive procedures, "did not meet the appropriate standards as determined by appropriate peer review for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care." *Id.* at 4. The Maryland Board also found that Respondent maintained confusing records for at least two of the patients reviewed. Specifically, for one patient, the records stated that the patient "had regular menses with heavy blood flow at times" but Respondent diagnosed the patient with "irregular menstruation and cessation of regular menses." For another patient, Respondent ordered a sonogram for irregular bleeding, but there was no indication in the records of the patient having irregular bleeding or menses. *Id.* The Maryland Board declined to find that respondent was guilty of gross overutilization or unprofessional conduct. *Id.* at 6.

The Board considered the 2021 Maryland Order at its meeting on October 27, 2021. At that meeting, the Board voted to take disciplinary action against Respondent's District of Columbia medical license in response to the 2021 Maryland Order. Respondent and the Board now agree to enter into this Consent Order.

### **Conclusions of Law**

The D.C. Board is authorized, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(3), to take reciprocal action when a respondent has been disciplined by a licensing authority of another jurisdiction for conduct that would be grounds for Board action. In pertinent part, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(3) states:

Each board, subject to the right of a hearing as provided by this subchapter, on an affirmative vote of a quorum of its appointed members may take one or more of the disciplinary actions...against any person permitted by this subchapter to practice a health occupation regulated by the board in the District who **is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority...of any jurisdiction for conduct that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section.** (emphasis added)

Under the D.C. Official Code, a physician licensed in the District must conform to standards of acceptable conduct and prevailing practice within a health profession or be subject to disciplinary action. *See* D.C. Official Code §§ 3-1205.14(a)(26). Respondent's conduct in Maryland did not conform to the standards of acceptable conduct in the practice of medicine such as to constitute a violation of D.C. Official Code §3-1205.14(a)(26) had that conduct occurred in the District of Columbia. Similarly, Respondent failed to keep adequate medical records as determined by a review of a board such as to constitute a violation of D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(37).

Accordingly, Respondent's conduct has provided the Board with a basis in law and fact to take action against Respondent under the authority of D.C. Official Code §§ 3-1205.14(a)(3), (26) and (37).

### **ORDER**

Based on the forgoing, it is by the District of Columbia Board of Medicine hereby, **ORDERED**, that Respondent's license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that Respondent agrees not to perform cryosurgery; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Respondent shall comply with all laws, rules, and regulations of the District of Columbia, while within its jurisdiction;

**ORDERED**, that if Respondent fails to satisfactorily fulfill or comply with the terms of this Consent Order the Board may issue a notice of intent to take additional formal disciplinary action against Respondent's license; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that this is a public document.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

02.07.2023

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Date



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By: Andrea Anderson, MD, FAAFP  
Chairperson

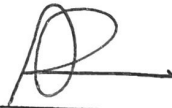
**AGREEMENT OF RESPONDENT**

By signing this public consent order, I agree to accept and abide by its terms. I acknowledge its validity and acknowledge that I have agreed to the terms set forth in this agreement. I fully acknowledge that by signing this consent order, I am waiving my right to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I also recognize that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling by the Board that might have followed any such hearing. By signing this settlement agreement, I waive all such rights.

I have had the opportunity to review this document and to seek the advice of my own legal counsel. I choose to sign this consent order willingly and without reservation and am fully aware of its meaning and effect.

11/1/2022

Date



Shabnam Dadgar, M.D.  
License No.:MD039475

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1 day of NOV., 2022.

PRATIMA BASU  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires 01/05/2024

  
Notary Public

**This Consent Order shall be deemed a public document and shall be distributed as appropriate.**