

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

**IN RE:**

**FARHAAD R. RIYAZ, MD**

**License No.: MD046451**

**Respondent**

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**CONSENT ORDER**

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. Farhaad Riyaz (Respondent) has been licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia since June 28, 2018. His license was summarily suspended on April 14, 2022 by the D.C. Department of Health (DC Health).

Dr. Riyaz is a dermatologist, self-identified as board-certified. According to Respondent, he practiced primarily in Virginia with some telemedicine services for residents of the District, and other states in which he had a medical license. On December 13, 2021, Respondent was convicted in the Eastern District of Virginia of one felony count of mail fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1341. From about March 2017 – June 2020, or a little over three (3) years, Dr. Riyaz would order items from Amazon, then claim either that they had not arrived, arrived in poor shape, or that he wanted to return them, when in fact they either had arrived or the items he returned for a refund were inferior to the items he had ordered and received. He was sentenced on March 22, 2022, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$312, 964.38, six months' home detention, three years' probation, 200 hours of community service, and continued mental health treatment. Dr. Riyaz did notify the Board in December 2021, of his charge and reported that it was due to a mental health issue for which he had started receiving treatment.

DC Health received notice that on February 23, 2022, the state of Colorado suspended his license; the Virginia Department of Health Professions summarily suspended his medical license on March 18, 2022, based on the Colorado suspension. DC Health subsequently suspended his license as a reciprocal action to the Virginia action. Colorado has issued a Final Order which placed Respondent's license on probation for three (3) years. He has not reinstated his license in Virginia. The state of Maryland entered an order of mandatory revocation of his medical license



due to the nature of the criminal conviction. According to one of Respondent's counsels, he has entered into agreements with at least seven other states for probation, reprimand or a fine (or a mix of the three) along with continued treatment, and is able to return to practice; other state licenses are still pending final resolution.

Respondent and counsel appeared before the D.C. Board of Medicine (Board) on December 14, 2022, at his request, to discuss his case and the reasons for his actions that led to the conviction, as well as his current status. The Board considered Respondent's offense and its relation to the practice of medicine; the nature and seriousness of the offense; the period of time over which the offense occurred and the date of his conviction; the reports of compliance with probation to include his mental health status and treatment; his work history; and letters of recommendation. Respondent and the Board have now agreed to enter into this Consent Order to resolve the issues and terminate the Summary Suspension.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. Respondent was licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia on June 28, 2018. Respondent's primary area of practice is dermatology. His District license was summarily suspended on April 14, 2022.

2. Respondent pled guilty on December 13, 2021 in the Eastern District of Virginia of one felony count of mail fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1341. From about March 2017 – June 2020, or a little over three (3) years, Dr. Riyaz would order items from Amazon, then claim either that they had not arrived, arrived in poor shape, or that he wanted to return them, when in fact they



either had arrived or the items he returned for a refund were inferior to the items he had ordered and received.

3. Respondent was sentenced on March 22, 2022 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$312, 964.38, six months' home detention, three years' probation, 200 hours of community service, and continued mental health treatment.

4. Respondent's primary physical practice was in Virginia, but he was licensed in numerous jurisdictions, including the District, where he practiced primarily via telemedicine.

5. As a result of the conviction, Respondent's license was summarily suspended in Colorado, Virginia, the District, and multiple other jurisdictions. His license in Maryland was revoked due to a mandatory revocation due to the nature of the criminal conviction. Respondent has entered into Consent Agreements with numerous jurisdictions to regain the right to practice. His license in Virginia has not been reinstated.

6. Respondent currently resides in Michigan. He continues with his mental health treatment.

7. Physicians occupy a special position of trust for the public, in which a patient has to place full faith and confidence in the character of the physician to safeguard the patient's information and to act in the best interests of the patient. Respondent's actions that led to his criminal conviction for fraud are deleterious to the practice of medicine in general and specifically to the trust that Respondent's patients need to have in Respondent for appropriate medical care.

8. Respondent remains under probation and is reportedly compliant with all terms.



## Conclusions of Law

The D.C. Board is authorized to take action against Respondent's license pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(4). Respondent has been convicted of an offense that is related to the practice of medicine. In doing so, Respondent's conduct failed to conform to standards of acceptable conduct and prevailing practice within a health profession in violation of D.C. Official Code §3-1205.14(a)(26).

## ORDER

Based on the forgoing, it is by the District of Columbia Board of Medicine hereby,

**ORDERED** that Respondent's license is **SUSPENDED** for a period of one (1) year from the date of execution of this Consent Order (that is, the date the Consent Order is signed by the Board Chair);

**ORDERED** that the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** is **TERMINATED** upon the execution date of this Consent Order;

**ORDERED** that after one year of suspension with no new disciplinary actions (that is, actions not based solely on the December 2021 criminal conviction referenced herein), Respondent may petition the Board to reinstate his license under **PROBATION** for a period of no less than three (3) years under the following conditions:

1. Prior to seeking termination of his suspension, Respondent shall have entered into a contract and enrolled with the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) Physician Health Program (PHP), for a period of not less than three (3) years for any



mental health evaluation and recommended treatment determined appropriate by MSDC PHP. Respondent shall provide this Consent Order and any necessary Release of Information documentation to MSDC PHP to ensure MSDC PHP has all necessary and relevant information to make the necessary decisions and recommendations.

2. If Respondent is unable to enter a contract with MSDC PHP due to MSDC PHP declining to enter into the contract, Respondent shall ensure he is enrolled with an alternate state-approved PHP, and shall ensure that that PHP is able and willing to provide all required information and reports to the Board. Respondent shall notify the Board immediately upon a determination that he is unable to contract with the MSDC PHP and provide information about the alternate PHP to include his contract and monitoring terms.
3. Respondent shall provide the necessary Release of Information forms to ensure MSDC PHP (or alternate PHP) can provide all relevant and necessary information to the Board.
4. Respondent shall ensure MSDC PHP (or alternate PHP) provides quarterly reports to the Board, beginning the end of the third month of enrollment, regarding Respondent's compliance with evaluation and treatment, and copies of any evaluations and treatment reports.
5. Respondent may petition the Board for the termination of his probation after three years of successful completion of the probationary terms. It is further

**ORDERED** that Respondent shall bear all costs associated with this Consent Order; and  
it is further




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

**ORDERED**, that if Respondent fails to satisfactorily fulfill 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

08/21/23  
Date

  
By: Andrea Anderson, MD, FAAFP  
Chairperson



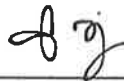
**AGREEMENT OF RESPONDENT**

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.

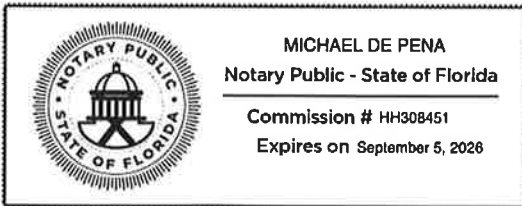
07/25/2023

Date



Farhaad Riyaz, MD  
License No. MD046451

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of JULY, 2023.



Notary Public

Notarized online using audio-video communication

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

