

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

**STEPHEN PETTERUTI, D.O., License Number DO 00413
Controlled Substances Registration Number CDO 00413**

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Stephen Petteruti, D.O. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island and is licensed to prescribe controlled substances under Rhode Island General Laws chapter 21-28, having both a state Controlled Substances Registration and a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration Registration to prescribe controlled substances. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") suspended Respondent from prescribing controlled substances on August 29, 2012, after the investigative committee's review of the complaint, the records, and the written response of the Respondent. The investigating committee found the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent was found guilty of unprofessional conduct on November 17, 1997, for violating Rhode Island General Laws § 5-37-5.1(3) for having sexual contact between a doctor and patient during the existence of the doctor/patient relationship; he voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island and agreed to certain conditions, and his license was reinstated in 1998.
2. On February 7, 2012, inspectors for the Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy visited a pharmacy in East Greenwich and obtained original paper prescriptions for a family

member of the Respondent; and between October 12 and December 12, 2011, six prescriptions were written for the same family member, all written by the Respondent using the family member's maiden name, which is different from the Respondent's last name: Oxycodone 30 mg (10-12-11, no refill; 12-12-11, no refill), Hydromorphone 4 mg (11-8-11, no refill), Diazepam 10 mg (11-8-11, no refill; 12-12-11, no refill), and Zofran ODT 8 mg (12-12-11, one refill);

3. On February 7, 2012, Board of Pharmacy investigators served a subpoena for medical records for two family members and himself; and no examination was evident in the records for the prescriptions written on October 12, November 8, and December 12, 2011;
4. The Respondent, in his July 27, 2012, response to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, stated that he did physically evaluate the family member/patient prior to prescribing medication, and he stated that he observed the patient's response to all medications and monitored for any side effects; and he asserts that the prescriptions "for a brief period of time was not inappropriate[.]";
5. The Respondent in his July 27, 2012, response admitted that he prescribed Adderall 10 mg for another family member on one occasion in February 2012; and he was aware of the family member's full medical history and observed his response to the prescribed medication;
6. The Respondent has a pattern of prescribing controlled substances to patients in a manner that does not meet the standards of acceptable practice;
7. The Respondent has a pattern of prescribing narcotics without medical records;

8. The Respondent has a pattern of prescribing narcotics without performing an examination of the patient;
9. The Respondent's medical records are substandard and incomplete for patients to whom the Respondent has prescribed narcotics;
10. The Respondent has delivered care below accepted minimal standards, including the inappropriate prescription of narcotics;
11. The Respondent is in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 5-37-5.1(19) and (26) for failing to adhere to minimum standards of acceptable practice and for violation of state laws concerning standards of practice and prescribing of controlled substances.
12. The public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

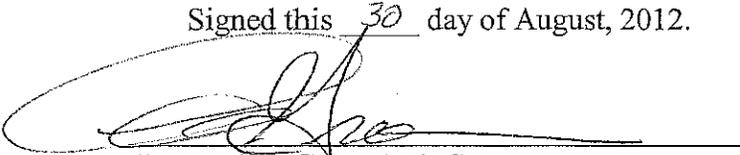
ORDER

1. Based on the foregoing, the Director of the Department of Health has determined that the continuation of the controlled substances registration of Stephen Petteruti, D.O., constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public.
2. Accordingly, the controlled substances registration issued to Stephen Petteruti, D.O., to prescribe controlled substances is hereby suspended forthwith pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 42-35-14(c).
3. This suspension shall continue until further Order of the Department of Health after an administrative hearing or other resolution.
4. The Respondent shall continue to be responsible for providing a proper medical home for any of his patients who need controlled substances prescribed to them, and shall continue

to be responsible to transfer any medical records for such patients immediately upon request or when needed.

5. The Respondent is entitled to a hearing in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 42-35-14(c).

Signed this 30 day of August, 2012.



Leonard B. Green, M.P.S.
Acting Deputy Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
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Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097
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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this Summary Suspension Order was sent via hand delivery to the Respondent on the 30th day of August, 2012, at the following addresses:

Stephen Petteruti, M.D.
Unit 10
250 Centreville Road, Building E
Warwick, RI 02886

