

State of Rhode Island  
Department of Health  
Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline



**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
**Altaf Girach, MD**  
**License No.: MD 10508**  
**Case No: C200360**

**CONSENT ORDER**

Altaf Girach, MD ("Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline ("Board") makes the following

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent has been licensed in Rhode Island since February 14, 2001. Respondent graduated from Albert Szent-Gyorgyi Medical University in 1995.
2. Respondent was the attending physician for Patient A (alias), a resident at Trinity Nursing Home ("Trinity").
3. Patient A had several medical problems, including chronic coronary heart disease, diabetes, hepatitis, behavioral health conditions, protein calorie malnutrition and kidney failure.,
4. The Board received a complaint from the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH") Center for Health Facilities Regulation ("CHFR") following a RIDOH survey at Trinity regarding Respondent's care of Patient A.
5. Respondent submitted a written response to the Board, which the Investigative Committee reviewed, in addition to the relevant medical records. Respondent appeared before the Investigative Committee on August 6, 2020.

6. The Investigative Committee noted deficiencies in the medical record. For example, Patient A's name was recorded, but no other identifier; the progress note was dated, but no time was indicated; the progress note was written on a reverse-sided form that was upside down. The name of the physician and his handwriting was poorly legible. Although, Patient A's weight and nutritional status were included in a separate section of Trinity's records, the progress note did not mention that the patient was underweight, nor did the progress note reference the patient's nutritional status.

7. The Investigative Committee concluded that the medical record did not comply with the applicable standards as set forth in the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Licensure and Discipline of Physicians (216-RICR-40-05-1)

8. Based on the foregoing, the Investigative Committee concluded that Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-37-5.1(19) and (24), which define "unprofessional conduct" as included, respectively, "*[i]ncompetent, negligent, or willful misconduct in the practice of medicine, which includes the rendering of medically unnecessary services, and any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in his or her area of expertise as is determined by the board;*" and "*[v]iolating any provision or provisions of [R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37] or the rules and regulations of the board or any rules or regulations promulgated by the director or of an action, stipulation, or agreement of the board;*" and Section 1.5.12(D) of the rules and regulations pertaining to the Licensure and Discipline of Physicians (216-RICR-40-05-1), on "*Medical Records*," which provides, "*Medical Records shall be legible and contain the identity of the physician or physician extender and supervising physician by name and professional title who is responsible for rendering, ordering, supervising or billing*

*each diagnostic or treatment procedure. The records must contain sufficient information to justify the course of treatment, including, but not limited to: active problem and medication lists; patient histories; examination results; test results; records of drugs prescribed, dispensed, or administered; and reports of consultations and hospitalizations."*

**Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:**

1. Respondent admits to and agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Respondent has agreed to this Consent Order and understands that it is subject to final approval of the Board and is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
3. If ratified by the Board, 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 on 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 those specifically contained herein;
  - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review; and
  - h. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and Federation of State Medical Boards and posted to the RIDOH public website.
4. Respondent agrees to pay, within 5 days of the ratification of this Consent Order, an administrative fee of \$1360.00 for costs associated with investigating the above-referenced complaint. Such payment shall be made by certified check, made payable to **"Rhode Island**

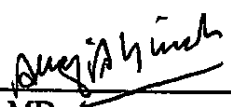
**General Treasurer,”** and sent to Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 205, Providence, RI 02908, Attn: Lauren Lasso. Respondent will send notice of compliance with this condition to [DOH.PRCCompliance@health.ri.gov](mailto:DOH.PRCCompliance@health.ri.gov) within 30 days of submitting the above-referenced payment.

5. Respondent hereby agrees to this reprimand.

6. Within six months of ratification of this Consent Order, Respondent shall, at his own expense, successfully complete the Case Western Reserve University “Intensive Course in Medical Documentation: Clinical, Legal and Economic Implications for Healthcare Providers” or other online medical documentation course acceptable to the Board.

7. If Respondent violates any term of this Consent Order after it is signed and accepted, the Director of RIDOH (“Director”) shall have the discretion to impose further disciplinary action, including immediate suspension of Respondent’s medical license, if such action is warranted pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §15-37-8,. If the Director imposes further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have 20 days from the suspension and/or further discipline to request an administrative hearing. The Director shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to Respondent of a violation of any term of this Consent Order. The Administrative Hearing Officer may suspend Respondent’s license, or impose further discipline, for the remainder of Respondent’s licensing period if the alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

Signed this 02 day of DEC, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Altaf Girach, MD

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

  
Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH

Director

Rhode Island Department of Health

3 Capitol Hill, Room 401

Providence, RI 02908