

IN THE MATTER OF: William F. Coscina, MD License #: MD 06583 Case #: C19-0089

## CONSENT ORDER

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

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- Respondent has been a licensed physician in the State of Rhode Island since March 20,
  His specialty is Radiology.
- 2. Respondent graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine on June 1, 1980.
- 3. Respondent is a radiologist, who was practicing at Kent, performing his usual duties on December 10, 2018. On that date, Respondent interpreted a diagnostic image of a patient's chest. The purpose of the exam was to rule out a foreign body. Respondent correctly identified that the image, in fact, revealed a foreign body.
- 4. Per Kent protocol, Respondent was required to immediately report this critical finding of a foreign body on the diagnostic image. Earlier that day, however, Respondent had been notified that he had to meet with his department head as part of a required in-service training regarding breast ultrasounds. When Respondent was notified that his department head was ready to meet with him, Respondent attended the in-service training instead of reporting the critical finding. Respondent completed the training then returned to his work station and

carried out his usual duties, yet forgot to contact the attending physician regarding the critical finding from the diagnostic image.

- 5. Subsequently, Kent suspended Respondent's privileges for 30 days, for failure to adhere to Kent's established policy: "Protocol for Urgent Stat Exam and Critical Results."
- 6. The Investigative Committee subpoenaed Respondent's credentials file from Kent's medical staff office, which file confirmed that Respondent had been suspended for disciplinary reasons for failure to report a critical finding to the attending physician.
- 7. Respondent appeared before the Investigative Committee on July 31, 2019 and admitted to the foregoing.
- 8. The Investigative Committee concluded that the established grounds for Kent's suspension of Respondent's privileges constitute "unprofessional conduct," specifically, that Respondent did not meet the standard of care because he did not follow the established policy when he failed to report the critical finding as required.
- 9. Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37-5.1(19).

## 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.
- If ratified by the Board, Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
- 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 that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and Federation of State Medical Boards and posted on the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH") public web site.
- 4. Respondent agrees to a Reprimand on his license.
- 5. Respondent shall complete at a minimum of eight hours of Board approved Category 1 approved CME in the subject area of patient safety within 180 days of ratification of this order. Respondent shall send notice of compliance with this condition to <a href="mailto:DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov">DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov</a> within 30 days of completing the above-referenced requirement.
- 6. Respondent agrees to pay, within five days of the ratification of this Consent Order, an administrative fee of \$850.00 for costs associated with investigating the above-referenced complaint. Such payment shall be made by certified check, made payable to "Rhode Island General Treasurer," 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.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov within 30 days of mailing the above-referenced payment.
- 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 the Director imposes

further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request a hearing within 20 days of the suspension and/or further discipline. The Director shall also have the discretion to request a hearing after notice to Respondent of a violation of any term of this Consent Order. The Board may suspend Respondent's license, or impose further discipline, for the remainder of Respondent's licensure period if any alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

Signed this 16 day of September 2019.

William F. Coscina MD

Ratified this 4th day of October 2019 by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH

Director

Rhode Island Department of Health

3 Capitol Hill, Room 401

Providence, Rhode Island 02908