

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



**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
**Anthony Rotelli M.D.**  
**License Number MD 04945**  
**Case # C170367 A**

**CONSENT ORDER**

Anthony Rotelli, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent is a licensed physician in Rhode Island and was issued his license on October 29, 1975. His primary specialty is urology. His Practice was located at 1524 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island. Respondent has retired as planned from the active practice of medicine on July 1, 2017 unrelated to this matter.
2. The Board received a report C170367 A regarding Patient A (alias) regarding care she received while under the care of the Respondent.
3. Respondent is the attending physician for Patient A. Patient A presented to Respondent for urinary retention. Patient A also had concerns regarding anxiety and back pain.
4. Patient A reports she was having difficulty obtaining appointments with the primary care

provider and asked Respondent to prescribe Xanax for anxiety. Respondent did not contact Patient A's primary care provider to coordinate care or advocate for Patient A.

5. Respondent prescribed Xanax to Patient A numerous times over several years. Respondent did not review the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and he was unaware Patient A was receiving Xanax and diazepam from other prescribers. In a 2-year period from February of 2015 to February of 2017, Patient A received 86 controlled substance prescriptions from 20 different prescribers and filled them at 4 different pharmacies.
6. Patient A also had back pain and asked Respondent to prescribe Soma for Patient A. Respondent prescribed Soma on multiple occasions to Patient A. Respondent did not review the PDMP. Respondent did not examine Patient A's back or undertake diagnostic studies to determine the cause of Patient A's back pain.
7. Patient A presented to the Miriam Hospital Emergency Department in February of 2017 due to an overdose. The Miriam emergency department attending physician attempted multiple times to contact Respondent and inquire about why Patient A was receiving Xanax and coordinate care. Respondent did not return the page from the Miriam emergency department physician. Miriam emergency department physician noted this was not the first time Patient A was treated for an overdose.
8. Respondent admits that he has violated Rhode Island General Laws §5-37-5.1(19) .... *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. The board does not need to establish actual injury to the patient in order to adjudge a physician or limited registrant guilty of the unacceptable medical practice in this subdivision;*

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

1. Respondent admits to 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 this Consent Order 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; and
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review.
  - h. Any objection that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, Federation of State Medical Boards as well as posted on the department's public web site.
4. Respondent agrees to pay within (60) days of the ratification of this Consent Order an administrative fee to the Board with a check for \$850 dollars made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer for costs associated with investigating the above-referenced complaint.

5. Respondent hereby agrees to this reprimand on his physician license.
6. Respondent agrees to inactivate his controlled substance registration upon ratification of this order. If Respondent does chose to reactivate his controlled substance registration he will take a Board approved CME, such as the Vanderbilt prescribing course of at least 20 hours duration in topics related to; controlled substance prescribing.
7. In the event that any term of this Consent Order is violated, after it is signed and accepted, the Director of the Department of Health shall have the discretion to impose further disciplinary action. If the Director imposes further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of the suspension and/or further discipline. The Director of the Department of Health 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 25 day of OCTOBER, 2017.

  
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Anthony Rotelli, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 8th day of November 2017.

 (Delegated Authority)

Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908