

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



IN THE MATTER OF:  
William Braden, MD  
License No.: MD 04690  
Complaint No.: 20-0301

**CONSENT ORDER**

The Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (“Board”) has reviewed and investigated the above-referenced complaint pertaining to Dr. William Braden (“Respondent”) through its Investigative Committee and makes the following

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent is a licensed physician in Rhode Island and was issued his license on April 24, 1974.
2. Respondent’s specialty is Psychiatry. Respondent is a graduate of Harvard Medical School.
3. Respondent was the attending physician for Patient A.
4. The Board received a complaint from the primary care provider for Patient A, Physician 1 (alias), in which Physician 1 alleged that Respondent has been prescribing high dose stimulants and benzodiazepines to Patient A, who has active psychosis. Physician 1 noted that Patient A’s *“mental health has declined badly and she is tormented by aural and visual hallucinations. She has had to have several psychiatric hospitalizations, some involuntary, each time discharged back out to [Respondent] who prescribes more stimulants, which she abuses. Most recently I have been personally affected as the patient responded to command hallucinations while she was*

*visiting me for routine acute issues and assaulted me with scissors. My complaint is that [Respondent] is inappropriately prescribing high levels of stimulants to a patient with psychosis.”*

5. The matter above was reviewed by the Investigative Committee of the Board on April 29, 2020. At that time, the Investigative Committee noted that Respondent has a history of prior disciplinary actions with the Board relative to Respondent’s prescribing of controlled substances. Most recently, Respondent entered into a consent order with the Board, dated May 4, 2018, in which Respondent, among other things, agreed to probation for a period of three years. As of April 29, 2020, Respondent remained on probation.

6. In the instant case, the Investigative Committee determined that Respondent had been prescribing Patient A a stimulant, Adderall®, in 30 mg tablets, three times per day, for a prolonged period of time. Typically, each prescription was for a 30-day supply. The package insert for these Adderall® tablets, which is a document approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), lists various contraindications, one of which is “*Patients with a history of drug abuse.*” The Investigative Committee determined that Patient A had been diagnosed with severe opioid use disorder and that Respondent had prescribed Patient A buprenorphine/naloxone. The package insert also includes warnings relative to “*Psychiatric Adverse Events,*” specifically with respect to “*Pre-existing Psychosis,*” stating, “*Administration of stimulants may exacerbate symptoms of behavior disturbance and thought disorder in patients with preexisting psychotic disorder.*” The Investigative Committee determined that Patient A has an active diagnosis of psychosis due to Schizoaffective disorder, Type 1, Depressive type, and takes various medications to control her symptoms. The package insert additionally states, “*Only in rare cases will it be necessary to exceed a total of 40mg a day.*” The Investigative Committee determined that Patient A was taking 90 mg a day of Adderall® tablets.

7. The Investigative Committee determined, further, that at Patient A's discharge from most hospitalizations for exacerbation of psychosis, Patient A was instructed by the hospitals to stop taking Adderall and diazepam, but that Respondent nevertheless resumed prescribing such medications.

8. The Investigative Committee concluded that Respondent's prescribing contrary to the listed contraindications and warnings of the package insert violated R.I Gen. Laws § 5-37-5.1(19), which defines unprofessional conduct as including "*[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.*" Additionally, the Investigative Committee concluded that Respondent's violation constitutes violation of Respondent's probation as set forth in the May 4, 2018 consent order agreed to and signed by Respondent.

**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 with the understanding 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 as and posted to the Rhode Island Department of Health public website.

4. Respondent agrees to pay within 60 days of ratification of this Consent Order an administrative fee of \$1000 for costs associated with investigating the above-referenced complaint. Such payment shall be made by certified check 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.

5. Respondent agrees to surrender his controlled substance registration as of 5 PM on May 8, 2020.


6. Respondent agrees not to renew his license as of June 30, 2020, and will not seek subsequent renewal in the future in Rhode Island.

7. Respondent will send notice of compliance with the conditions of this order to [DOH.PRCOMPLIANCE@HEALTH.RI.GOV](mailto:DOH.PRCOMPLIANCE@HEALTH.RI.GOV) within 30 days of satisfying each condition.


8. If any term of this Consent Order is violated, after it is signed and accepted, the Director of RIDOH (“Director”) shall have the discretion to impose further disciplinary action, including immediate suspension. If the Director imposes further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within 20 days of the suspension and/or further discipline. 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 any alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

  
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William Braden, MD

Ratified this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020 by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

  
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Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401  
Providence, RI 02908

  
Jim M. Worsell, MD, MPH