

1 BEFORE THE
2 OREGON MEDICAL BOARD
3 STATE OF OREGON

4 In the Matter of)
5 BRUCE ANTHONY AMES, JR, MD) STIPULATED ORDER
6 LICENSE NO. MD23261)
7)

8 1.

9 The Oregon Medical Board (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing,
10 regulating and disciplining certain health care providers, including physicians, in the state of
11 Oregon. Bruce Anthony Ames, Jr., MD (Licensee) is a physician licensed to practice medicine
12 in the state of Oregon.

13 2.

14 The Board proposed taking disciplinary action pursuant to ORS 677.205 against Licensee
15 for violations of the Medical Practice Act, to wit: ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or
16 dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) and ORS 677.190(14) gross or repeated
17 acts of negligence and ORS 677.190(18) willfully violating any provision of the Medical
18 Practice Act or any rule adopted by the Board.

19 3.

20 The acts and conduct alleged to violate the Medical Practice Act follow:

21 3.1 Licensee attended medical school at the University of St. George's, on the island
22 of Grenada and completed a residency in internal medicine at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore,
23 New York. During that residency, Licensee engaged in a series of sexual liaisons with at least
24 five adult female hospital staff members where he was employed. Licensee was reprimanded
25 during his residency for viewing sexually explicit internet sites on hospital computers. Licensee
26 failed to disclose to the Board this reprimand from his residency program. Licensee was hired at
27 Providence Medical Group at Central Point (PMGCP) on August 1, 2001. In October 2002, it
28 was determined that Licensee had engaged in flirtatious behavior with one female staff person.

1 employed at PMGCP and had met with one female patient outside of the healthcare setting for a
2 cup of coffee, where he informed the patient that because of his personal interest in her, she
3 should obtain medical care from another physician.

4 3.2 In January 2003, management at PMGCP learned that Licensee had used a
5 hospital computer at PMGCP to view sexually explicit material. Licensee was reprimanded. It
6 was also determined that Licensee had engaged in a sexual relationship with a female employee
7 of PMGCP during this time period, and was seen going into his office with this employee and
8 locking the door on diverse occasions during the work week. This employee was transferred to
9 another location. Licensee eventually divorced his spouse and married this employee.

10 3.3 Licensee first saw Patient A, an adult female, in 2002 at PMGCP and treated her
11 for mild depression. After several clinical appointments, Licensee transferred her care to another
12 physician and then began to see Patient A socially. Licensee admits to kissing Patient A, but
13 denies any other improper sexual contact.

14 3.4 On January 18, 2006, PMGCP terminated Licensee for cause for violating
15 hospital policy by using hospital computers in 2005 to view sexually explicit material. An
16 investigation revealed that Licensee used hospital computers on multiple occasions during the
17 work week to access sexually explicit web sites. Licensee admits that this occurred while he was
18 on duty and while he should have been attending to the practice of medicine. Licensee also
19 admits to having sexually fantasized about various female patients. Licensee was subsequently
20 hired in 2006 through Apogee Medical Inc. to work as a hospitalist at Providence Medical Center
21 in Medford, Oregon.

22 3.5 Licensee failed to report his termination for cause to the Board, as required by
23 ORS 677.415(3) and OAR 847-010-0073.

24 3.6 During 2004 and 2005, Licensee engaged in a sexual relationship with Patient B,
25 an adult female employed at PMGCP, by meeting with her surreptitiously at the clinic and an
26 offsite location on diverse occasions during the workweek for sexual liaisons. During this time,
27 Licensee provided medical care to Patient B, her husband and children.

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1 3.7 Licensee served as primary care physician for Patient C, an adult female.
 2 Licensee began to call Patient C in 2004 for purposes of establishing a "friendship." On one
 3 occasion, Licensee stopped by Patient C's home during a lunch break and initiated unwanted and
 4 unsolicited aggressive sexual contact that included pulling down his pants and placing her hand
 5 on his exposed penis after Licensee had physically picked her up and carried her into her
 6 bedroom for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse. Patient C physically and verbally
 7 resisted Licensee's attempt and eventually persuaded Licensee to leave. Licensee asserts that
 8 after meeting socially for about 6 to 9 months, Licensee recommended that Patient C transfer her
 9 medical care to another physician.

10 3.8 Licensee began to provide medical care to Patient D, an adult female, in 2002 at
 11 PMGCP. In 2005, Licensee informed Patient D that he found her attractive, and called her on
 12 several occasions for personal reasons. Licensee repeatedly called Patient D at her home in
 13 2007, and even stopped by her house, attempting to establish contact for purposes of developing
 14 a sexual relationship. On one call, Patient D's husband answered the phone. Licensee promptly
 15 hung up. Shortly thereafter, Patient D called Licensee and told him not to call again.

16 3.9 Licensee provided medical treatment to Patient E, an adult female employed at
 17 Rogue Valley Medical Center. Licensee and Patient E subsequently engaged in a sexual
 18 relationship that included Licensee going to Patient E's home for sex during "lull times working
 19 at the hospital."

20 3.10 Licensee served as primary care physician for Patient F, an adult female.
 21 Licensee accurately diagnosed Patient F with cervical cancer in about 2004. After Licensee was
 22 terminated at PMGCP, Patient F maintained contact with Licensee, and asked that he remain as
 23 her primary care provider. Licensee informed Patient F that she should seek medical care from
 24 another physician and suggested that they meet socially. Licensee and Patient F engaged in a
 25 sexual relationship that began in December 2006 and ended in April 2007 and included a sexual
 26 liaison at Rogue Valley Medical Center in the on-call room of the hospital and various off site
 27 locations. This sexual relationship later caused significant emotional distress to both Patient F
 28 and her spouse.

4.

Licensee and the Board agree to close this investigation and agree that Licensee will immediately cease practicing any form of medicine in the state of Oregon by surrendering his license to practice medicine while under investigation, consistent with the terms of this Order. Licensee understands that he has the right to a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedures Act (chapter 183), Oregon Revised Statutes and fully and finally waives the right to a contested case hearing and any appeal therefrom by the signing of and entry of this Order in the Board's records. Licensee understands that this document is a public record and is reportable to the National Practitioners Data Bank. Licensee stipulates that he engaged in the conduct described in paragraph 2 and that this conduct violated ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) and ORS 677.190(14) gross or repeated acts of negligence and ORS 677.190(18) willfully violating any provision of the Medical Practice Act or any rule adopted by the Board.

5.

Licensee and the Board agree to resolve this matter by the entry of this Stipulated Order subject to the following conditions, effective upon the signing of this Order by the Board's designee:

5.1 Licensee immediately surrenders his license to practice medicine while under investigation. As a result, Licensee is prohibited from practicing any form of medicine, to include administrative medicine and performing individual medical examinations (IMEs).

5.2 Licensee promises to never reapply for a license to practice medicine in the state of Oregon. The surrender of his medical license is permanent.

5.3 Licensee is reprimanded.

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1 5.4 Licensee stipulates and agrees that any violation of the terms of this Order
2 will be grounds for further disciplinary action under ORS 677.190(18).

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4 IT IS SO STIPULATED this 24th day of June, 2008

5 SIGNATURE WITHHELD

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7 BRUCE ANTHONY AMES, JR, MD

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9 IT IS SO ORDERED this 10th day of July, 2008.

10 OREGON MEDICAL BOARD

11 SIGNATURE WITHHELD

12
13 PATRICIA L. SMITH
14 Board Chair