

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **MICHAEL P. RIDGE, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 15513
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-21-0743A

**ORDER FOR PROBATION WITH
PERMANENT PRACTICE
RESTRICTION; AND CONSENT TO
THE SAME**

7 Michael P. Ridge, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a
8 hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Probation with Permanent Practice
9 Restriction; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to
10 the entry of this Order by the Board.

11 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
13 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

14 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 15513 for the practice of
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. The Board initiated case number MD-21-0743A after receiving a complaint
17 from Patient JW alleging that Respondent inappropriately performed an abdominal
18 examination by unnecessarily exposing her breasts.

19 4. During the course of the Board's investigation, Respondent denied the
20 allegation and asserted that his examination of the patient met the standard of care.
21 Respondent reported that he always uses a chaperone for female pelvic or breast
22 examinations, but does not typically do so for non-gynecological examinations.

23 5. The Board initiated MD-11-0914A after a female patient ("NF") alleged that
24 Respondent inappropriately exposed her breasts and stomach during an appointment.
25 Respondent denied the allegations made by NF. During the course of the Board's
investigation, Board-approved evaluators made recommendations, including that

1 Respondent utilize a chaperone for all female patient encounters. The case was
2 subsequently administratively closed without finding a violation of Board statute. The
3 dismissal letter stated that while the Board was not ordering Respondent to employ a
4 chaperone, Respondent was cautioned to take the evaluator's recommendation for a
5 chaperone seriously. .

6 6. Cases MD-98-0017A and MD-98-0080A were initiated based on allegations
7 of inappropriate examinations of female patients. The cases were resolved through a
8 Stipulation and Order requiring Respondent to utilize a female chaperone for all
9 examinations of female patients in all settings. On April 16, 2004 in MD-03-0413A, the
10 Board issued Respondent Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Letter of
11 Reprimand based on a finding that Respondent failed to have a chaperone present for
12 three patient encounters as required in the Stipulation and Order. The Stipulation and
13 Order was terminated on April 14, 2004 based on findings that the Letter of Reprimand
14 was sufficient to address the violation of the Board's order and a restriction was no longer
15 necessary.

16 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

17 a. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
18 Respondent.

19 b. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
20 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(r) ("Committing any conduct or practice that is or
21 might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").

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1 **ORDER**

2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

3 1. Respondent is placed on Probation with the following terms and conditions:

4 a. **Practice Restriction**

5 Respondent shall have a female chaperone present while examining or treating all
6 female patients in all settings, including but not limited to office, hospital, and clinic. Within
7 30 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall obtain a female chaperone who is
8 an Arizona licensed healthcare provider (i.e. registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or
9 physician assistant) employed by the Respondent, hospital or clinic and may not be a
10 representative or relative who accompanied the patient. From the effective date of the
11 Order until the date a chaperone is obtained who meets these requirements, Respondent
12 shall have a female chaperone who is a medical assistant employed by Respondent's
13 employer.

14 Respondent shall instruct the female chaperone to document her presence by
15 contemporaneously maintaining a Board staff pre-approved log, and by electronically
16 signing each chart. Respondent shall instruct the female chaperone to immediately report
17 any inappropriate behavior to Respondent and the Board.

18 b. **Continuing Medical Education**

19 Respondent shall within 6 months of the effective date of this Order, successfully
20 complete the Professional Boundaries and Ethics: Extended Edition (PB-24EX) course
21 offered by Professional Boundaries, Inc. ("PBI"). Respondent shall within thirty days of the
22 effective date of this Order submit satisfactory proof of enrollment with Board staff. Upon
23 completion of the CME, Respondent shall provide Board staff with satisfactory proof of
24 attendance, including PBI's "AIR" Letter after the completion of the required CME.
25 Respondent shall sign any and all consents or releases necessary to allow for PBI to

1 communicate to the Board directly and furnish the AIR Letter. The CME hours shall be in
2 addition to the hours required for the biennial renewal of medical licensure

3 **c. Chart Reviews**

4 Board staff or its agents shall conduct periodic chart reviews to monitor
5 Respondent's compliance with this Board Order.

6 **d. Obey All Laws**

7 Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws, all rules governing the
8 practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered
9 criminal probation, payments and other orders.

10 **e. Tolling**

11 In the event Respondent should leave Arizona to reside or practice outside the
12 State or for any reason should Respondent stop practicing medicine in Arizona,
13 Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten days of departure and
14 return or the dates of non-practice within Arizona. Non-practice is defined as any period of
15 time exceeding thirty days during which Respondent is not engaging in the practice of
16 medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside Arizona or of
17 non-practice within Arizona, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.

18 **f. Probation Termination**

19 This Order is permanent for the duration of Respondent's licensure and shall not
20 terminate except upon cancellation, expiration, revocation or surrender of Respondent's
21 license.
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1 2. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action against
2 Respondent based upon any violation of this Order. A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s)

3 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 9th day of July, 2022.

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5 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

6 By Pat E McSorley
7 Patricia E. McSorley
8 Executive Director

9 **CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER**

10 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the
11 stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (“Order”). Respondent
12 acknowledges he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.

13 2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely
14 and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.

15 3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to
16 a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge
17 this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action
18 related thereto or arising from said Order.

19 4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its
20 Executive Director.

21 5. All admissions made by Respondent in this Order are solely for final
22 disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil
23 litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent
24 are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or
25 federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the
State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.

1 6. Notwithstanding any language in this Order, this Order does not preclude in
2 any way any other State agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from
3 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate
4 now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent,
5 including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent
6 acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Order makes no
7 representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other
8 state agency or officer or political subdivisions of the State relating to this matter or other
9 matters concerning Respondent.

10 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof)
11 to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of
12 the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
13 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
14 by the parties.

15 8. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal
16 disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data
17 Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.

18 9. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the
19 remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.

20 10. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
21 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
22 prejudgment or other similar defense.

23 11. Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result
24 in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(s) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation,
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1 consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive
2 director under this chapter.") and 32-1451.

3 12. Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2501(16), he
4 cannot act as a supervising physician for a physician assistant.

5 13. ***Respondent has read and understands the conditions of probation.***

6
7 Michael P. Ridge, M.D.

DATED: 06 / 03 / 2022

8 MICHAEL P. RIDGE, M.D.

9
10 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
11 this 9th day of June, 2022 to:

12 Scott J. Hergenroether, Esq.
13 H&M Law, PLLC
14 PO Box 3700
15 Cottonwood, Arizona 86326
16 Attorney for Respondent

17 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
18 this 9th day of June, 2022 with:

19 Arizona Medical Board
20 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000
21 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

22 Michelle Robles
23 Board staff
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