

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **ALI GHAZANFARI, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 37256
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-20-0786A

**ORDER FOR LETTER OF
REPRIMAND; AND CONSENT TO THE
SAME**

7 Ali Ghazanfari, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a
8 hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Letter of Reprimand; admits the
9 jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order
10 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 37256 for the practice of
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. The Board initiated case number MD-20-0786A after receiving notification of
17 a malpractice settlement regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a 72 year-old
18 female patient ("AH") alleging delay in surgical repair of a bowel perforation from a
19 colonoscopy resulting in sepsis and death.

20 4. AH had a medical history of emphysema, hypertension, diverticulosis,
21 hypercholesterolemia, allergic rhinitis, COPD, gastroesophageal reflux disease, colonic
22 polyps, and colonic neoplasia. On November 29, 2016, AH had a colonoscopy performed
23 at an Endoscopy Facility.

24 5. On December 1, 2016, at 1506, AH presented to the Hospital with abdominal
25 pain. At 1620, AH's lab results showed a white blood cell count (WBC) of 2.6 and a
potassium of 2.9. At 1948, an abdominal CT scan showed mild to moderate intraperitoneal

1 air with ascites in the abdomen and pelvis. At 2049, a gastroenterologist was assigned to
2 the case and called Respondent who reviewed the imaging. At 2153, AH's lactic acid level
3 was 7.1. At 2140, the criteria for sepsis and systemic inflammatory response syndrome
4 ("SIRS") were met including a heart rate of 110 and respiratory rate of 30.

5 6. On December 2, 2016, at 0737, Respondent was updated by the ICU nurse
6 of AH's declining condition and ordered vasopressors and labs. Surgery was scheduled for
7 later in the day. At 1306, Respondent saw AH for a surgical consultation. At 1355,
8 Respondent performed a diagnostic laparoscopy, Hartman's procedure and a large
9 volume lavage on AH. Respondent's operative findings were perforated possible
10 diverticula in the mid sigmoid colon; extensive contamination of the entire abdomen and
11 perineum with stool and enteric contents; and extensive peritonitis. At 14:50, AH was
12 taken back to the ICU. However, post-operatively, AH remained hemodynamically
13 unstable.

14 7. On December 3, 2016, at 2330, AH expired. The death certificate listed the
15 cause of death as septic shock due to peritonitis and perforated sigmoid colon.

16 8. The standard of care requires a physician to surgically intervene in a timely
17 manner for a patient with a bowel perforation. Respondent deviated from the standard of
18 care by failing to perform a surgical repair of a bowel perforation in a timely manner.

19 9. Actual patient harm was identified in that the patient expired from septic
20 shock.

21 10. On June 4, 2022, Respondent completed an intensive, in-person continuing
22 medical education course ("CME") in Medical Ethics and Professionalism with a Board
23 approved provider for a total of 15 credit hours.

24

25

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

b. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(e) (“Failing or refusing to maintain adequate records on a patient.”).

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

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 5th day of August, 2022.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

By Patricia E. McSorley
Patricia E. McSorley
Executive Director

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

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

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

3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge

1 this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action
2 related thereto or arising from said Order.

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

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

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

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

25

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

4 9. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
5 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
6 prejudgment or other similar defense.

7 10. ***Respondent has read and understands the terms of this agreement.***

8 DocuSigned by:

9 3CB46697B41D4E1
ALI GHAZANFARI, M.D.

DATED: 8/1/2022

10
11 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
12 this 5th day of August, 2022 to:

13 Paul J. Giancola, Esq.
14 Tracy Olson, Esq.
15 Snell & Willmer, LLP
16 400 East Van Buren Street, Suite 1900
17 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
18 Attorney for Respondent

19 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
20 this 5th day of August, 2022 with:

21 Arizona Medical Board
22 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000
23 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

24 
25 Board staff