

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **JEFFREY M. TAFFET, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 16326
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-21-0458A

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

7 Jeffrey M. Taffet, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a
8 hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for a 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 16326 for the practice of
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. The Board initiated case number MD-21-0458A after receiving notification of
17 a malpractice settlement regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a 61 year-old male
18 patient ("PS") alleging improper performance of sinus surgery and failure to recognize a
19 surgical complication resulting in brain damage and subsequent death.

20 4. On December 18, 2017, PS presented to Respondent's office as a referral
21 from his primary physician for the evaluation of a nasal obstruction. Respondent
22 diagnosed PS with chronic ethmoid sinusitis. A CT scan showed a deviated septum and
23 chronic sinusitis and a physical exam with nasal endoscopy that confirmed the deviated
24 septum and nasal polyps. Respondent discussed both surgical and conservative
25 management options, and PS chose to pursue further medical management.

1 5. On November 26, 2018, PS presented to Respondent's office with worsening
2 symptoms. An endoscopy revealed nasal polyps PS elected to proceed with surgery.

3 6. On January 7, 2019, a CT scan showed a deviated septum, various areas of
4 soft tissue thickening in the sinuses as well as a right nasal polyp. There was no evidence
5 of significant disease of the left ethmoid sinuses.

6 7. On January 18, 2019, Respondent performed a left anterior ethmoid sinus
7 surgery on PS at an Outpatient Surgical Center. Respondent encountered excessive
8 bleeding as he operated in the left ethmoid sinus. Various measures to control the
9 bleeding including topical vasoconstriction and suction cautery were used but the bleeding
10 required packing with Vaseline gauze bilaterally.

11 8. PS was taken to recovery where he did not awaken appropriately and then
12 exhibited signs of right sided weakness. Respondent had left the Surgical Center and
13 returned to his office where he was contacted by nursing staff. Respondent ordered the
14 patient to be transferred to Emergency Room for neurologic evaluation where PS
15 underwent CT angiography that revealed a suspected cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and
16 active intracranial hemorrhage.

17 9. PS was taken emergently to the operating room a frontal craniotomy was
18 performed which revealed a large amount of intracranial blood and an injury to the left A2
19 segment of the circle of Willis that required proximal and distal clips. The neurosurgeons
20 did not note any scarring or tethering of cerebral tissue to the dura or make any mention of
21 scarring of tissues or anatomic variants in their operative report. The neurosurgeon also
22 repaired a 1cm bony defect in the left cribriform plate and the overlying dura. In the ICU,
23 post-operatively, PS continued to show signs of a serious CVA both on physical exam and
24 imaging.

25

1 ORDER

2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

3 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.

4
5 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 7th day of October, 2022.

6 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

7
8 By Patricia E. McSorley
9 Patricia E. McSorley
Executive Director

10
11 CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

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

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

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

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

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

1 federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the
2 State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.

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

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

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

20 9. 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 10. ***Respondent has read and understands the terms of this agreement.***

24
25 
JEFFREY M. TAFFET, M.D.

DATED: 8/31/22

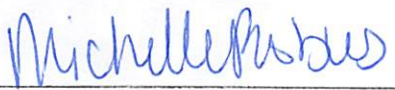
1 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
2 this 7th day of October, 2022 to:

3 Jeffrey B. Taffet, M.D.
4 Address of Record

5 Callie Maxwell, Esq.
6 Kent & Wittekind
7 909 East Missouri Avenue
8 Phoenix, Arizona 85014
9 Attorney for Respondent

10 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
11 this 7th day of October, 2022 with:

12 Arizona Medical Board
13 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000
14 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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16 _____
17 Board staff