

October 2024 Public Board Actions List

The Board issued **three** public orders in **October 2024**. To view each Board order, click on the licensee's name below.

1. **Christopher W. Rhodes, RCP**
12213
Respiratory Care Professional
Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement

2. **Paul Michael Thaxton, MD**
16291
Physician
Public Consent Order

3. **Malcolm M. Traxler, Jr., MD**
52651
Physician
Public Consent Order

**BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
CHRISTOPHER WADE RHODES) DOCKET NO:
RCP License No. 12213,)
)
Reinstatement Applicant.)

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

OCT 30 2024

DOCKET NUMBER:
20250019

PUBLIC CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR REINSTATEMENT

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board"), in its discretion, has considered the reinstatement application for licensure of Christopher Wade Rhodes, ("Applicant") to practice as a respiratory care professional in the State of Georgia. In conjunction therewith, the Board hereby enters its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

On or about March 9, 2022, Applicant was issued a license to practice as a respiratory care professional in the State of Georgia. On or about November 20, 2023, Applicant's license expired. On or about February 29, 2024, Applicant's license lapsed for failure to renew upon expiration of the late renewal period.

2.

On or about September 25, 2024, Applicant submitted an application for reinstatement of Applicant's license to practice as a respiratory care professional. While reviewing the application, it was discovered that Applicant had worked as a respiratory care professional in Georgia after his license expired.

3.

Applicant waives any further findings of fact with respect to this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The unlicensed practice disclosed by Applicant is grounds for denial of licensure or licensure with discipline under O.C.G.A. Ch. 34, T. 43, as amended. Reinstatement of Applicant's license is within the discretion of the Board. Applicant hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

Beginning on the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Applicant's license to practice as a respiratory care professional in the State of Georgia shall be reinstated, subject to the following terms:

1.

Applicant shall submit to the Board a fine of **five hundred dollars (\$500.00)** to be paid in full by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within **sixty (60) days** of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. Said fine shall be sent to Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, to the attention of the Executive Director. Failure to pay the entire amount by the 60th day shall be considered a violation of this Agreement and shall result in further sanctioning of Applicant's licensure, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

This Consent Agreement and dissemination thereof shall be considered a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** of Applicant by the Board.

3.

The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Consent Agreement is docketed. Applicant should receive a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement from the Board at the Applicant's address and/or email address of record within ten (10) business days of the docket date. If Applicant has not received a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement, it is Applicant's responsibility to obtain a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement from the Board. Applicant must comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement beginning on the effective date.

4.

Applicant acknowledges that Applicant has read this Consent Agreement and understands its contents. Applicant understands that Applicant has the right to an appearance in this matter and freely, knowingly, and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Agreement. Applicant understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Agreement and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Agreement. Applicant further understands that this Consent Agreement will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. However, if this Consent Agreement is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Applicant hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

(Signature on following page)

Approved this 30th day of October, 2024.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)



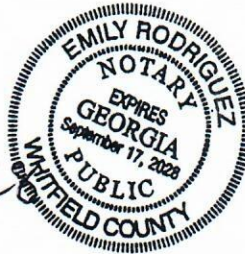
BY: *S. Gangasani*
SREENIVASULU GANGASANI, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST: *J. S. Jones*
JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: *C. Wade Rhodes*
CHRISTOPHER WADE RHODES
Applicant

[As to Applicant's signature only:]
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 27 day of October, 2024.

Emily Rodriguez
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 9/17/2028



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PAUL MICHAEL THAXTON, M.D.,
License No. 16291,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

OCT 21 2024

DOCKET NUMBER:
10240023

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) and PAUL MICHAEL THAXTON, M.D. (“Respondent”) the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

On or about September 30, 2021, Patient D.E. saw Respondent for a weight loss consultation. During said consultation, Respondent asked Patient D.E. for consent to perform a clinical breast exam (“CBE”). Patient D.E. agreed. Respondent checked Patient D.E. for lumps. This exam was conducted with Patient D.E. fully clothed and with no chaperone present. Respondent states he did not examine the bodies of the breasts but only checked the upper chest.

3.

Breast examinations should be conducted while the patient is shirtless and braless. A visual exam should be conducted to detect puckering, dimpling, or changes in size, shape, or symmetry of the breasts. The nipples, the bodies of the breasts, the underarms, and the area just below the clavicle should be physically examined, in their entirety, for abnormalities, such as lumps. Finally, pursuant to Rule 360-3-.02(12), a chaperone is required to be present during a physical examination of the breasts.

4.

Respondent neither admits nor denies the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct, if proven, constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a licensed physician in the State of Georgia, under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that his license to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia shall be placed on a probationary status for a period of **five (5) years**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Probation. Within **sixty (60) days** from the scheduled date of termination of probation, Respondent may petition for termination of probation by certifying under oath before a notary public that Respondent has complied with all conditions

of probation and by providing documentation supporting discharge from probation. The Respondent may be required to appear before the Board, or a committee thereof, in its consideration of his request to terminate probation. The Board shall be authorized to review and evaluate the practice of Respondent prior to lifting the probationary status of Respondent's license. At such time, the Board shall be authorized to restore all rights and privileges incident to the license of Respondent, unless it extends, maintains, or imposes such restrictions or conditions as the Board deems appropriate, based upon the information presented to it pursuant to this Consent Order or otherwise available to the Board. The Board shall notify Respondent of its intent to extend, maintain, or impose such restrictions or conditions beyond the designated probationary period, and Respondent may respond to such notification in writing or request an appearance before the Board or its representatives as in a non-contested case. This Consent Order shall remain in effect pending a final determination by the Board and notification that the probationary period has terminated.

2. Chaperone Requirement. During the probationary period, Respondent shall have a chaperone, physically present in the examination room and during the entirety of the physical examination, when conducting examinations of the breasts and/or genitalia. Respondent understands this is required regardless of whether the patient is clothed, unclothed, or partially unclothed. **Three (3) years** after the docket date of this order, Respondent may petition to lift this restriction. Respondent understands the discretion to lift this restriction belongs fully to the Board and will only be done after full review of Respondent's practice and the investigative file in

this case. Respondent shall practice under this chaperone requirement until Respondent receives written confirmation from the Board that the requirement is lifted. **Failure to comply with the chaperone requirement shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

3. Boundaries Course. Within **six (6) months** of the docket date of this order, Respondent shall complete an **intensive boundaries course**. Respondent shall submit his chosen course for approval and provide written evidence of successful completion to the Board. The preferred way to request approval and submit evidence of compliance is by email: medbd@dch.ga.gov. Alternatively, requirements may be submitted to the Board via mail to: Latisha Bias, Compliance Manager, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to submit evidence of completion of the aforementioned course to the Board, within the stated time period, shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

2.

If the Respondent shall fail to abide by all state and federal laws relating to drugs and regulating the practice of medicine in the State of Georgia, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, the terms of this Consent Order, or if it should appear from information received by the Board that the Respondent is unable to practice as a physician with reasonable skill and safety, Respondent's license may be further sanctioned or revoked, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

Respondent acknowledges that he has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and docketed by the Board. Respondent further understands and agrees that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board. However, if the Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the Board's ability to adjudicate this matter. Respondent understands that, by entering into this Consent Order, Respondent may not be eligible for a multistate license. The Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 21st day of October, 2024.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY: *S. Gangasani*
SREENIVASULU GANGASANI, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST: *J. S. Jones*
JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: *Paul Michael Thaxton*
PAUL MICHAEL THAXTON, M.D.
Respondent

[As to the Signature of Paul Michael Thaxton, M.D.]
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 16th day of October, 2024.

Annette C. Kelley
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 7/5/2025

Annette C. Kelley
Notary Public
Columbia County, Georgia
My Commission Expires July 5, 2025

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

MALCOLM MACDOUGALL TRAXLER, JR, M.D.,
License No. 52651,
Respondent.

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* DOCKET NO:
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GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

OCT 17 2024

DOCKET NUMBER:
20250018

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) and MALCOLM MACDOUGALL TRAXLER, JR, M.D. (“Respondent”), the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the facts stated herein.

2.

On October 6, 2023, Respondent was interviewed by a Board investigator. During the interview, Respondent was asked about Nurse Practitioner H.W., who Respondent supervised and with whom he shares office space, billing, supplies, and staff. At one point, Respondent admitted he would sign blank prescriptions, give the blank prescriptions to Nurse Practitioner H.W., and allow Nurse Practitioner H.W. to fill out the patient’s information (including name) and drug amount and quantity on the pre-signed prescriptions.

3.

On October 10, 2023, Nurse Practitioner H.W. was interviewed by a Board investigator. During the interview, Nurse Practitioner H.W. confirmed Respondent would pre-sign prescriptions

and allow Nurse Practitioner H.W. to fill out the patient's information (including name) and drug amount and quantity on the pre-signed prescriptions. Nurse Practitioner H.W. estimated this occurred for approximately three (3) years.

4.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter. Respondent agrees to the sanctions herein in resolution of this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of sanctions upon Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that the following sanctions shall be imposed upon Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia:

1.

Within **sixty (60) days** of the effective (docket) date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00)** for unprofessional conduct. Such fine shall be payable by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board and shall be submitted via mail to: Jason S. Jones, Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to pay the fine within the stated time**

period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.

2.

Within **six (6) months** of the effective (docket) date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall complete **ten (10) hours** of continuing medical education (CME) course in **each of the two areas: 1) Pain Management**, and **2) Prescribing**. The courses shall be pre-approved by the Board and shall be in addition to CME requirements for license renewal and may not be used to fulfill any continuing education hours for license renewal.

Respondent shall submit his chosen courses for approval and provide written evidence of successful completion of the CME to the Board. The preferred way to request approval and submit evidence of compliance with this Order is by email: medbd@dch.ga.gov. Alternatively, requirements may be submitted to the Board via mail to: Latisha Bias, Compliance Manager, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to submit provide evidence of completion of the aforementioned courses to the Board within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

3.

Within **thirty (30) days** of the effective (docket) date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit an affidavit to the Board acknowledging he has read, understands, and is in compliance with the following **two** Board Rules: **1) Rule 360-32-.04 Limitations**, including and with special attention to Rule 360-32-.04(5), and **2) Rule 360-3-.02 Unprofessional Conduct Defined**, including and with special attention to Rule 360-3-.02(4). The Rules of the Georgia

Composite Medical Board can be found at <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/360>. The preferred way to submit the affidavit is by email: medbd@dch.ga.gov. Alternatively, the affidavit may be submitted to the Board via mail to: Latisha Bias, Compliance Manager, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Failure to submit the affidavit to the Board within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.

4.

In addition to and in conjunction with any other sanction contained herein, this Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall serve as a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** to the Respondent for Respondent's conduct.

5.

Approval of this Consent Order by the Georgia Composite Medical Board shall in no way be construed as condoning Respondent's conduct and shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

6.

Respondent understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this Consent Order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Georgia Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

7.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to a hearing by

entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board that may be disseminated as such. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 17th day of October, 2024.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



BY:

SREENIVASULU GANGASANI, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST:

JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:

MALCOLM MACDOUGALL TRAXLER, JR., M.D.
Respondent

[As to the signature of Malcolm MacDougall Traxler, Jr., M.D.]

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 2nd day of October

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

