

October 2020 Public Board Actions List

Georgia Composite Medical Board
Attn: **Ms. Latisha Bias**, Public Records Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3465
PH: (404) 657-3194
FX: (404) 463-2539
Email: latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov

The Board issued **three** public orders in **October 2020**. To view each Board order, click on the licensee's name below.

1. **Bruce M. Gioia, MD**

38774

Physician

Public Consent Order

2. **Monte D. Slater, MD**

45968

Physician

Public Consent Order

3. **Vishal Verma, MD**

61677

Physician

Public Consent Order

4.

Two days earlier, M.C. had seen her primary-care physician (not a party to these proceedings) with similar complaints, including abdominal pain and cramping for the past two days. The primary-care physician diagnosed her with gastro-esophageal reflux and prescribed Bentyl and Zantac.

5.

M.C.'s vitals at the time of her admission were temperature 98.6; heart rate 101; respiration 19; and saturation of peripheral oxygen 98% on room air.

6.

The emergency room nurse's head to toe assessment of M.C. noted that M.C. was in no acute distress, was alert, and had a soft and tender abdomen.

7.

The emergency room staff drew a chemistry profile and complete blood count, which revealed normal values with the exception of albumin 3.3 (3.4-5.0), creatinine-blood 1.23 (.60-1.10); sodium 132.6 (134-146.0); Osmolality calc 258 (275-295); WBC 14.30 (4.8-10.8); lymphocyte% 11.7 (21.0-51.0); monocyte% 9.1 (0.0 -9.0); monocyte # 1.30 (.10 -0.60); neutrophils% 78.5 (42.0- 75.0); and neutrophils # 11.20 (1.40 -6.50).

8.

M.C.'s urinalysis showed a slightly hazy dark amber color urine with 2+ bacteria, 1+ ketones, and positive for nitrites.

9.

M.C. had a history of urinary tract infections, including most recently an infection in July 2016.

10.

Respondent examined M.C. twice on November 23, 2018, the first time being about ten to twenty minutes after she arrived at the emergency room.

11.

Respondent noted that M.C. complained of constant abdominal pain with a sudden onset and worsening of pain, and abdominal cramping.

12.

M.C. described her pain as 9 on a scale of 10 and noted its quality as aching and dull.

13.

Respondent's exam documented that although M.C. was in moderate distress she was not in acute distress, and she was alert.

14.

M.C.'s heart sounds were normal with regular rate and rhythm. M.C. had no respiratory distress, her skin was normal in color and warm and dry.

15.

One nurse documented the pain as abdomen-flank pain, and in addition noted that M.C. was not vomiting, was afebrile, had no complainants of diarrhea or constipation, displayed no diaphoresis or dyspnea, and her white blood cell count was only slightly elevated. Her MANTREL score was "4."

16.

Respondent noted that M.C.'s abdomen was soft and tender with hypoactive bowel sounds, with pain in both the suprapubic area and right lower quadrant, but no guarding or rebound.

17.

Respondent concluded that M.C. had a urinary tract infection.

18.

M.C. did, in fact, have urinalysis results consistent with infection (Bacteria 2+, Ketones 1+, trace leukocytes esterase, and nitrates), and a positive urine culture.

19.

Respondent told M.C. to increase her fluid intake and told her to take Cipro 500 mg po BID x 10 days;, Pyridium 200 mg po TID x 2 days, and Ultram 50 mg 1.2 mg po Q6H PRN.

20.

Respondent discharged M.C. and told her to follow-up with her primary care physician in five to seven days.

21.

On or about November 29, 2016, M.C returned to the emergency room complaining of aching, cramping sharp pain for the past week, in addition to nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and chills.

22.

The emergency room nurse's head to toe assessment of M.C. noted that M.C. was alert, in mild distress, and that M.C.'s abdomen was soft, with normal bowel sounds, with tenderness and guarding.

23.

M.C. was not experiencing any respiratory distress and her breath sounds were normal, as was her cardiovascular system.

24.

A CAT scan of M.C.'s abdomen showed a right quadrant abscess inferior and adjacent to the lip of the cecum that was indicative of an appendicular abscess.

25.

M.C. was admitted to the hospital for further review for an acute appendicular abscess.

26.

On or about November 30, 2016, to repair her perforated appendix M.C. underwent a laparoscopic surgery converted to an open appendectomy, and exploratory laparotomy with small bowel resection and cecectomy.

27.

A Board-approved peer reviewer reviewed Respondent's treatment of patient M.C. and concluded that Respondent's treatment of patient M.C. departed from the standard of acceptable and prevailing medical practice. The peer reviewer's findings included, but were not limited to:

- a) M.C.'s physical exam and lab results on November 23, 2016, when Respondent examined M.C., were suggestive of a urinary tract infection and acute abdominal pain, of which Respondent addressed only the urinary tract infection; and
- b) Respondent should have ordered a CAT scan to address the abdominal pain.

28.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and hereby waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1.

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a 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 of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following terms:

1.

Respondent shall pay administrative fees in the amount of six hundred dollars and zero cents (\$600.00) as reimbursement to the Board of expenses incurred in the investigation of this matter, which expenses do not include time spent by the investigative division of the Board. Said fees shall be payable by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board **within thirty (30) days** of the effective date of this Order and shall be paid separately from the fine referenced in paragraph four below. Failure to pay the entire administrative fees by the 30th day shall be considered a violation of this Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Board within one year of the entry of this Order. Failure to pay the fine as provided herein shall be considered a violation of this Order, and may result in further sanctioning of Respondent's authority to practice medicine in the future, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

In addition to the continuing medical education ("CME") required of all Georgia physicians Respondent shall obtain fifteen (15) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") in acute/abdomen treatment/diagnosis. Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 epidemic, all or some of these CME hours may be obtained remotely. Respondent shall complete said additional fifteen (15) hours of CME within one (1) year from the docketing of this Order. Prior to obtaining the CME, Respondent shall submit the title of the course(s) he plans to attend and information concerning the course(s) to the Board. Within one (1) year from the docketing of this consent order, Respondent shall submit to the Board proof of completion of said additional fifteen (15) hours. All reports and submissions required under this Consent Order shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303 or any subsequent address of the Board.

4.

This Consent Order shall constitute a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent and may be disseminated by the Board as a public disciplinary action.

5.

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

6.

Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the contents of this Consent Order. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter, and Respondent

freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order.

Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners. Respondent further understands and agrees that a representative of the State Department of Law may be present during the presentation 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, once approved, shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. If this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the ability of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 02 day of September, 2020.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)



BY: Brenda Simmons D.
GRETCHEN COLLINS, M.D. *Brenda Simmons DO*
Chairperson

ATTEST: L. Blum Hughes
LASHARN HUGHES, MBA
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: Bruce M. Gioia
BRUCE M. GIOIA, M.D.
Respondent

As to Respondent:
Sworn to and subscribed
before me, this 02 day
of September, 2020.

Taylor Dubberly
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires



1188963

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
MONTE D. SLATER, M.D.
License #: 45968

Respondent.

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*
*
*

DOCKET NO.: _____

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

OCT 13 2020

DOCKET NUMBER:
20210023

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Monte D. Slater, M.D., Respondent, the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to 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 licensed to practice medicine at all times relevant to the facts contained in this Order. His license expires on October 31, 2021.

2.

Respondent is a board certified physician with over thirty years of experience.

COUNT I

3.

Respondent is the owner of Aesthetic Body Sculpture Clinic & Center for Anti--Aging ("Aesthetic") with two locations, one in Atlanta and one in Warner Robins, Georgia.

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4.

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Respondent works approximately two to three days a week at each location.

5.

Aesthetic provides services that include, but are not limited to, medical spa treatments, Botox, laser treatment, laser hair removal, liposuction, fat transfer, and anti-aging services.

6.

On or about April 20, 2018, Respondent contracted with V.G. as a part-time cosmetologist, esthetician, and laser practitioner. V.G. had for a number of years been providing laser hair removal treatments to patients at the office of a plastic surgeon who was in the process of winding down his practice. Respondent understood V.G. to be licensed as an assistant laser practitioner based on her history of longtime experience performing laser hair removal at that plastic surgeon's office.

7.

Unbeknownst to Respondent and Aesthetic, V.G.'s Master Cosmetologist license had lapsed on or about March 31, 2002, and she was not a licensed laser practitioner, at the time Aesthetic contracted with her. V.G. was initially asked to provide a copy of her license but then neither Respondent, nor Aesthetic followed up to obtain it or confirm and verify V.G.'s licensure to provide cosmetic laser services through the Composite Medical Board.

8.

Although V.G. was neither a licensed cosmetologist nor a licensed laser practitioner, V.G. provided services to Respondent's clients/patients that required V.G. to maintain an active license.

9.

In addition, because Respondent and Aesthetic mistakenly understood V.G. to be licensed, the public website for Aesthetic represented that V.G. was experienced as a cosmetic laser practitioner and capable of providing laser services to patients.

10.

On or about January 27, 2020, V.G. reinstated her Master Cosmetologist license with the Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers, and on or about December 5, 2019, V.G. became a licensed Assistant Cosmetic Laser Practitioner with the Board.

11.

O.C.G.A. § 43-34-247 states in part, that,

The practice of providing cosmetic laser ... when engaged in by a person who is not licensed as a cosmetic laser practitioner or otherwise licensed to practice a profession which is permitted under law to perform cosmetic laser services is declared to be harmful to the public health, safety, and welfare. . . any person or organization having an interest therein, may bring a petition to restrain and enjoin such unlicensed practice in the superior court of the county where such unlicensed person resides.

12.

O.C.G.A. § 43-34-242 (4) defines a "Cosmetic laser practitioner" as a person licensed under Article 9, "Cosmetic Laser Services," who provides "cosmetic laser services," which are defined under subsection (5) of this statute as, "nonablative elective

cosmetic light based skin care, photo rejuvenation, or hair removal using lasers or pulsed light devices approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for noninvasive procedures."

13.

O.C.G.A. § 43-34-252 requires any person who owns a facility in which cosmetic laser services are offered or performed in to be in compliance with the statute and licensing requirements.

14.

O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8 (a) states in relevant part:

The board shall have authority to ... discipline a person regulated under this chapter or any antecedent law upon a finding by the board that the licensee, has:

(9) Knowingly maintained a professional connection or association with any person who is in violation of this chapter or the rules or regulations of the board; knowingly aided, assisted, procured, or advised any person to practice pursuant to this chapter contrary to this chapter or to the rules and regulations of the board; knowingly performed any act which in any way aids, assists, procures, advises, or encourages any unlicensed person or entity to practice pursuant to this chapter; or divided fees or agreed to divide fees received for professional services with any person, firm, association, corporation, or other entity for bringing or referring a patient;

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and hereby waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a 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 of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following terms:

1.

Respondent shall pay administrative fees in the amount of nine hundred dollars and zero cents (\$900.00) as reimbursement to the Board of expenses incurred in the investigation of this matter, which expenses do not include time spent by the Investigative Division of the Board. Said fees shall be payable by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board **within thirty (30) days** of the effective date of this Order and shall be paid separately from the fine referenced in paragraph 2, below. Failure to pay the entire administrative fees by the 30th day shall be considered a violation of this Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Board by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay the fine as provided herein

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shall be considered a violation of this Order, and may result in further sanctioning of Respondent's authority to practice medicine in the future, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

Respondent shall abide by all state and federal laws regulating the practice of medicine, the Rules and Regulations of the Board, and the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules, terms or conditions of this Consent Order, or if it should appearing from reports, inspections or other information submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof after notice and hearing, reinstatement.

5.

All reports and submissions required under this Consent Order shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303 or any subsequent address of the Board.

6.

This Consent Order shall constitute a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent and may be disseminated by the Board as a public disciplinary action.

7.

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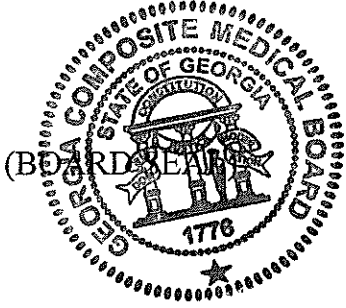
Respondent also understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile and reported as required by state and federal agencies, including but not limited to the National Practitioners Data Bank. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

8.

Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the contents of this Consent Order. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter, and Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Respondent further understands and agrees that a representative of the State Department of Law may be present during the presentation 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, once approved, shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. If this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the ability of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 13 day of October, 2020.

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GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY: Barby J. Simmons, D.O.
BARBY J. SIMMONS, D.O.
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Lasharn Hughes, MBA
LASHARN HUGHES, MBA
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: Monte D. Slater, M.D.
MONTE D. SLATER, M.D.
Respondent

AS TO THE SIGNATURE
MONTE D. SLATER, M.D.
Sworn to and Subscribed

Before me this 21 day of September, 2020.

Janette King Walton
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 2-20-23

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OCT 09 2020

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

VISHAL VERMA, M.D.,
License Number 61677,

Respondent.

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)

DOCKET NO. _____

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

OCT 05 2020

DOCKET NUMBER:
20210021

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Georgia Board") and VISHAL VERMA, 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 in the State of Georgia and was licensed at all times relevant to the matters stated herein. The Respondent's license was issued on September 11, 2008, and is set to expire on July 31, 2020.

2.

Respondent is also licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. On or about January 31, 2020, the Maryland State Board of Physicians issued a Final Decision and Order (Case No. 2017-0104B), publically reprimanding Respondent for the following conduct:

- a) Based on a brief online questionnaire, via Respondent's website, Respondent prescribed and dispensed Latisse¹ to over 1,300 thousand Maryland residents without having a

¹ Latisse is a prescription medication to grow and thicken eyelashes.

Maryland dispensing permit and without performing an in-person or a synchronous audio and/or audio-visual patient evaluation.

- b) On Respondent's application to renew his Maryland medical license, Respondent failed to accurately respond to questions pertaining to Respondent's prior discipline and his practice of telemedicine.

3.

In addition to a public reprimand, the Maryland State Board of Physicians placed Respondent on probation for a minimum period of six months and Respondent was ordered to pay a fine in the amount \$50,000 and successfully complete Board-approved courses on telemedicine, prescribing of medication, and recordkeeping. On or about September 2, 2020, the Maryland State Board of Physicians issued an order terminating probation due to Respondent's full compliance with the terms and conditions of probation.

4.

Between on or about May 13, 2020 through July 26, 2020, Respondent successfully completed twenty-three (23) hours of continuing education coursework as required by the Maryland State Board of Physicians Final Decision and Order.

5.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(a)(5) and 43-34-8(a)(5), the Georgia Board may discipline a licensee who has had disciplinary action against him or her by any such lawful licensing authority other than the board.

6.

Respondent agrees to the above findings of facts and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The action taken by the Maryland Board of Physicians constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon Respondent's license to practice as a 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 Georgia Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that the following sanctions shall be imposed upon Respondent's license to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia:

1.

Within **thirty (30) days** of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to the Georgia Board a fine of three thousand dollars (**\$3,000.00**) to be paid in full by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Said fine shall be sent to Georgia Composite Medical Board, located at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, to the attention of the Executive Director. Failure to pay the entire amount within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Order shall be considered a violation of this Consent Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

Within **six (6) months** of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall successfully complete at least 10 hours of continuing medical education ("CME") in the area of ethics. Said 10 hours of CME may be completed online and shall be in addition to the CME required of all Georgia physicians. Respondent shall provide written evidence of successful

completion of the said 10 hours to the Georgia Board within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order.

3.

Respondent shall abide by all state and federal laws regulating the practice of medicine, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Board, and the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. Respondent further agrees that any violation of this Consent Order shall be deemed to be sufficient to authorize the Board to order summary suspension of Respondent's license, pending further proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1), or any other statute authorizing emergency action, but Respondent understands that Respondent shall be entitled to an expedited hearing to substantiate such violation, if the Board exercises such right.

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** of Respondent by the Georgia Board.

5.

Respondent also 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.

6.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter and

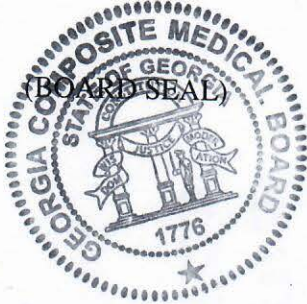
freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Order.

Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Georgia Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Georgia 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 Georgia Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Georgia 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 Georgia Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

(Signatures on the following page)

Approved this 5 day of October, 2020

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



BY: Barby J. Simmons, D.O.
BARBY J. SIMMONS, D.O.
Chairperson

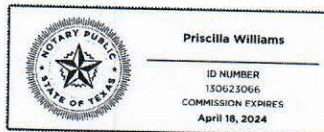
ATTEST: Lasharn Hughes
LASHARN HUGHES, MBA
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: Vishal Verma
VISHAL VERMA, M.D.
Respondent

AS TO THE SIGNATURE OF
VISHAL VERMA, M.D.:
Sworn to and subscribed before me
This, 23rd day of September, 2020.

Priscilla Williams

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 04/18/2024



Texas
Bastrop
Priscilla Williams
130623066

Notarized online using audio-video communication