

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF NATUROPATHY

FILED

DEC 09 2014

Adjudicative Clerk Office

In the Matter of

No. M2013-1275

EDMUND M. CORPUZ

Credential No. NATU.NT.00001270

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Respondent

The executive director of the Board of Naturopathy (Board), on designation by the Board, makes the allegations below, which are supported by the evidence contained in case no. 2012-9364.

1. ALLEGED FACTS

1.1 On February 6, 2004, the state of Washington issued Respondent a credential to practice as a naturopathic physician. Respondent's credential is currently active.

1.2 Respondent was employed by Natural Health Technologies (NHT), a corporation located in the state of Washington, in order to treat patients via "Skype."

1.3 Respondent developed a business arrangement with the unlicensed owner of NHT, and delegated responsibility over medical records to the unlicensed owner of NHT.

1.4 In response to a Department of Health investigator's request for patient records, Respondent admitted that he treated patients over Skype without actual visual and physical contact with these patients. In addition, Respondent admitted that he did not maintain any medical records for the patients he treated, and could not provide any records to the investigator.

1.5 Respondent did not meet the standard of care for a naturopathic physician practicing in the State of Washington because his Skype examinations could not adequately evaluate a patient without an actual physical exam, and a physical exam was required for adequate treatment planning and diagnosis. Respondent's failure to meet the standard of care created an unreasonable risk of harm to his patients.

1.6 Respondent inappropriately prescribed human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) to patients for weight loss because HCG is not approved for the treatment of

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weight loss nor is there any evidence that this is a safe or effective treatment. In addition, HCG has potentially serious side effects and contraindications that requires thorough patient evaluation prior to patient use.

2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

2.1 Based on the Alleged Facts, Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of RCW 18.130.180(1), (4), (10), and (16), which provide:

RCW 18.130.180 Unprofessional conduct. The following conduct, acts, or conditions constitute unprofessional conduct for any license holder under the jurisdiction of this chapter:

(1) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption relating to the practice of the person's profession, whether the act constitutes a crime or not. If the act constitutes a crime, conviction in a criminal proceeding is not a condition precedent to disciplinary action. Upon such a conviction, however, the judgment and sentence is conclusive evidence at the ensuing disciplinary hearing of the guilt of the license holder of the crime described in the indictment or information, and of the person's violation of the statute on which it is based. For the purposes of this section, conviction includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for the conviction and all proceedings in which the sentence has been deferred or suspended. Nothing in this section abrogates rights guaranteed under chapter 9.96A RCW;

...

(4) Incompetence, negligence, or malpractice which results in injury to a patient or which creates an unreasonable risk that a patient may be harmed. The use of a nontraditional treatment by itself shall not constitute unprofessional conduct, provided that it does not result in injury to a patient or create an unreasonable risk that a patient may be harmed;

...

(10) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to practice when a license is required;

...

(16) Promotion for personal gain of any unnecessary or inefficacious drug, device, treatment, procedure, or service;

...

2.2 The above violations provide grounds for imposing sanctions under RCW 18.130.160.

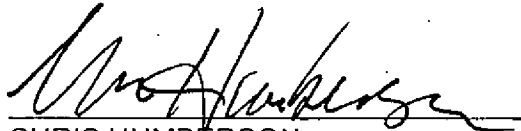
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3. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

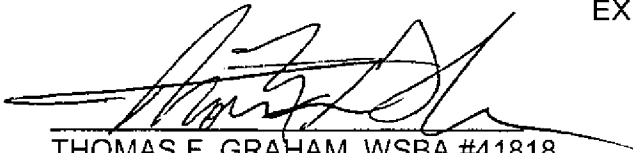
The charges in this document affect the public health, safety and welfare. The executive director of the Board directs that a notice be issued and served on Respondent as provided by law, giving Respondent the opportunity to defend against these charges. If Respondent fails to defend against these charges, Respondent shall be subject to discipline and the imposition of sanctions under Chapter 18.130 RCW.

DATED: December 9, 2014

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF NATUROPATHY



CHRIS HUMBERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THOMAS F. GRAHAM, WSBA #41818
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL