

1 express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other
2 pending or future investigation, action or proceeding. The acceptance of this Consent
3 Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or officer of this State from
4 instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject
5 of this Consent Agreement.

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

12 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to
13 the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the acceptance of the
14 Consent Agreement. 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. If the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, Respondent will not
18 assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of this Consent Agreement constitutes
19 bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.

20 9. This Consent Agreement, once approved and signed, is a public record that will
21 be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board and will be reported to the
22 National Practitioner Data Bank and to the Arizona Medical Board's website.

23 10. If any part of the Consent Agreement is later declared void or otherwise
24 unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement in its entirety shall remain in force
25 and effect.

1 11. Any violation of this Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct
2 and may result in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order,
3 probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its
4 executive director under this chapter") and 32-1451.

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7 RONALD L. CHRIST, M.D.

DATED: 3 July 2007

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9 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

10 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
11 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

12 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 6644 for the practice of
13 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

14 3. The Board initiated case number MD-08-1255A after receiving notification of
15 a malpractice settlement involving Respondent's care and treatment of a twenty-eight
16 year-old male patient ("RF").

17 4. On December 4, 2006, RF was admitted to the hospital for an elective
18 laparoscopic cholecystectomy for a prior history of acute cholecystitis and gallstones.
19 Respondent attempted a laparoscopic removal, but due to dense adhesions of the
20 omentum to the gallbladder, the procedure was terminated and converted to an open
21 cholecystectomy. According to the medical records, most of the surgery was performed
22 using blunt finger dissection. Even though Respondent was unable to clearly identify the
23 cystic duct there was no documentation of why a cholangiogram was not necessary to
24 reassure him of the anatomy before proceeding further. Respondent then divided an area
25 close to the gallbladder and was able to complete the surgery.

1 5. Postoperatively, RF had high fevers, elevated white blood cell counts and
2 increased serum bilirubin. An ultrasound showed a collection of fluid underneath the liver
3 and Respondent felt that RF was developing a subhepatic abscess. On December 8,
4 2006, RF was transferred to another hospital where computed tomography guided
5 drainage of fluid was carried out followed by an Endoscopic Retrograde
6 Cholangiopancreatography that showed evidence of a transection of the proximal common
7 hepatic duct. On December 11, 2006, RF underwent exploratory surgery, including
8 drainage of the bile collections and intraoperative cholangiograms that showed transection
9 of both the right and left bile ducts. The following day, RF was transferred to a tertiary
10 facility where he subsequently underwent successful hepaticojejunostomy and
11 anastomosis of the right and left hepatic ducts to a defunctionalized limb of the jejunum. RF
12 did well postoperatively and was later discharged.

13 6. The standard of care in performing a cholecystectomy requires a physician to
14 perform the surgery in a safe and prudent manner.

15 7. Respondent deviated from the standard of care because he did not perform
16 RF's cholecystectomy in a safe and prudent manner.

17 8. RF sustained a significant bile duct injury that necessitated further surgery,
18 requiring a complex hepatoenteric anastomosis, which he could have led to him
19 developing strictures necessitating further surgeries and even worsening liver failure.

20 9. A physician is required to maintain adequate legible medical records
21 containing, at a minimum, sufficient information to identify the patient, support the
22 diagnosis, justify the treatment, accurately document the results, indicate advice and
23 cautionary warnings provided to the patient and provide sufficient information for another
24 practitioner to assume continuity of the patient's care at any point in the course of
25

1 treatment. A.R.S. § 32-1401(2). Respondent's records were inadequate because there
2 was no documentation of why Respondent felt a cholangiogram was not necessary.

3 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
5 Respondent.

6 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
7 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401 (27)(e) ("[f]ailing or refusing to maintain adequate
8 records on patient.") and A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(q) ("[a]ny conduct or practice that is or
9 might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").

10 **ORDER**

11 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

12 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.

13 2. This Order is the final disposition of case number MD-08-1255A.

14 DATE OF ORDER EFFECTIVE this 5TH day of AUGUST, 2009.



15 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

16 By 

17 Lisa S. Wynn
18 Executive Director

19 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
20 this 6th day of August, 2009 with:

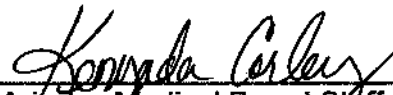
21 Arizona Medical Board
22 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
23 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

24 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
25 this 6th day of August, 2009 to:

26 Sigurds Krolls
27 Campbell Yost Clare & Norell P.C.
28 101 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 2500
29 Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1904

1 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
2 this 6th day of August, 2009 to:

3 Ronald L. Christ, M.D.
4 Address of Record

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6 _____
7 Arizona Medical Board Staff

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