

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

2 In the Matter of

3 **FRANCES J. WOO, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 10705
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-14-1496A

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS
OF LAW AND ORDER FOR LETTER
OF REPRIMAND AND PROBATION**

7 The Arizona Medical Board ("Board") considered this matter at its public meeting on
8 August 3, 2016. Frances J. Woo, M.D. ("Respondent"), appeared before the Board for a
9 Formal Interview pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by A.R.S. § 32-1451(H).
10 The Board voted to issue Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order after due
11 consideration of the facts and law applicable to this matter.

12 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

15 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 10705 for the practice of
16 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

17 3. The Board initiated case number MD-14-1496A after receiving a complaint
18 regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a 59 year-old female patient ("D.E.")
19 alleging inappropriate prescribing.

20 4. D.E. initially presented to Respondent's Lake Havasu office to establish as a
21 patient on September 15, 2005. There is no recorded physical examination, no review of
22 systems, no past medical or family history, and no allergies noted in D.E.'s medical record.
23 Respondent prescribed D.E. Zyprexa and Xanax. Respondent discontinued the Zyprexa
24 on November 7, 2005 and prescribed Paxil at D.E.'s request. Respondent also prescribed
25 Darvocet.

1 5. On November 21, 2005, Respondent saw D.E. for oral pain and stomatitis.
2 Respondent continued the Paxil and, at D.E.'s request, prescribed additional Darvocet
3 because she had given some of her medication to her boyfriend's son.

4 6. On March 20, 2006, D.E. called Respondent's office to report that she had
5 been in a motor vehicle accident. D.E. requested a prescription for Darvocet which
6 Respondent declined. D.E. saw Respondent on September 25, 2006 at which time she
7 reported falling at home after drinking alcohol. At that time, D.E. was taking Xanax and
8 Lexapro. Respondent prescribed Vicodin, at D.E.'s request, Xanax, and Lexapro. D.E.
9 contacted Respondent on September 27, 2006 and requested Tylenol #3 because the
10 Vicodin was too strong. On October 10, 2006, Respondent saw D.E. and advised her that
11 she was taking too much Xanax. Respondent prescribed D.E. Lexapro and Xanax along
12 with Darvocet because D.E. complained about the side effects of Tylenol #3.

13 7. On May 18, 2007, Respondent prescribed D.E. Xanax and Darvocet. On
14 June 6, 2007, Respondent gave D.E. prescriptions for Xanax and Darvocet because she
15 was going to Phoenix. On August 23, 2007, Respondent again prescribed Xanax and
16 Darvocet because she reported neck and back pain as a result of falling over her dog. On
17 August 29, 2007, Respondent performed a pelvic and breast exam on D.E., and
18 prescribed her Darvocet for tension headaches.

19 8. On January 17, 2008, Respondent saw D.E. for a reassessment and
20 counseling. Respondent discontinued Lexapro and refilled D.E.'s prescriptions for Xanax
21 and Darvocet. On April 4, 2008, D.E. reported that she was going back to Phoenix and
22 wanted to restart Paxil. Respondent prescribed D.E. Paxil, Xanax and Darvocet.
23 Respondent again prescribed Darvocet on October 13, 2008. On November 18, 2008,
24 D.E. complained of a cough and Respondent prescribed her Phenergan with codeine.

25

1 9. Respondent refilled D.E.'s Darvocet prescription on January 8, 2009. On
2 February 3, 2009, Respondent transferred D.E.'s medical records to a physician in
3 Scottsdale, Arizona.

4 10. D.E. returned to see Respondent on October 14, 2010 seeking refills of
5 Darvocet and Xanax. Respondent did not record an examination in D.E.'s medical records.
6 On November 11, 2010, D.E. reported to Respondent that she was under a lot of stress
7 and requested Vicodin; Respondent prescribed Xanax and Tramadol.

8 11. On March 9, 2011, Respondent prescribed D.E. Tylenol #3, Tramadol, and
9 Xanax, at D.E.'s request, based on complaints of anxiety and lower back pain. On July 12,
10 2011, D.E. complained of headaches and Respondent prescribed D.E. Fiorinal. On
11 November 3, 2011, Respondent saw D.E. for tension headaches and a urinary tract
12 infection and prescribed Fiorinal, Xanax, and Septra. D.E. informed Respondent that she
13 was moving out of state.

14 12. D.E. returned to see Respondent on March 19, 2012 and complained of
15 chronic headaches, fatigue and fibromyalgia. Respondent prescribed Fiorinal and Xanax.
16 On March 27, 2012, Respondent refilled a prescription for Tylenol #3. On May 7, 2012,
17 D.E. saw Respondent for a rash and requested a prescription for Lexapro, which
18 Respondent gave her as a substitute for Paxil. On September 12, 2012, Respondent
19 prescribed Valium and Fiorinal with codeine, at D.E.'s request. Respondent did not
20 perform an examination on D.E. In November 2012, D.E. reported an increase in stress for
21 which Respondent prescribed Cymbalta, Klonopin, Neurontin, and Tylenol #3.

22 13. On March 11, 2013, D.E. reported that she was under severe stress and
23 Respondent prescribed Tylenol #3, Klonopin, and Neurontin. On September 11, 2013,
24 hepatic dysfunction was noted on laboratory results "due to alcohol intake" and
25 Respondent urged D.E. to reduce or stop drinking.

1 14. D.E.'s last recorded appointment with Respondent was on April 21, 2014.
2 D.E. complained of being achy and sore and requested Valium. Respondent prescribed
3 Valium and Tramadol.

4 15. Pharmacy records show that Respondent gave D.E. monthly refills of Xanax
5 until November 13, 2014, refills of Valium from June 2014 through January 2015, and
6 refills of Tramadol from June 2014 through January 2015.

7 16. The standard of care requires a physician to obtain a complete medical,
8 family, and medication history from a patient. Respondent deviated from the standard of
9 care by failing to obtain a complete medical, family, and medication history from D.E.

10 17. When a patient presents with complex complaints of anxiety and depression
11 that the physician cannot treat in the current setting, the standard of care requires the
12 physician to consult with a psychiatric professional. Respondent deviated from the
13 standard of care by failing to consult with psychiatric professionals about D.E. who
14 repeatedly complained of anxiety and depression.

15 18. Respondent is required to maintain adequate records on a patient which
16 include recorded periodic examinations and reassessments prior to refilling narcotic
17 medications. Respondent failed to maintain adequate records for D.E. He failed to record
18 periodic examinations and there is no documentation of reassessments of D.E. prior to
19 Respondent refilling numerous prescriptions for narcotic medications.

20 19. Actual harm occurred to D.E. in that she missed several years of appropriate
21 treatment and became addicted to several medications known to cause significant
22 withdrawal symptoms. The medications Respondent prescribed aggravated D.E.'s basic
23 problems, including depression and anxiety.

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1 rehearing or review. A.A.C. R4-16-103. Service of this order is effective five (5) days after
2 date of mailing. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09(C). If a petition for rehearing or review is not filed,
3 the Board's Order becomes effective thirty-five (35) days after it is mailed to Respondent.

4 Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing or review is
5 required to preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

6 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 5th day of October, 2016.

7
8 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

9 By Patricia E. McSorley
10 Patricia E. McSorley
11 Executive Director

12 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
13 this 5th day of October, 2016 to:

14 Frances J. Woo, M.D.
15 Address of Record

16 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
17 this 5th day of October, 2016 with:

18 Arizona Medical Board
19 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
20 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

21 Mary Baber
22 Board staff
23
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