

IN THE MATTER OF  
DIVYA VERMA, M.D.

Respondent

License Number: D0052298

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BEFORE THE

MARYLAND STATE

BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

Case Number: 2225-0079B

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### CONSENT ORDER

On August 29, 2025, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **DIVYA VERMA, M.D.** (“the Respondent”), License Number D0052298, under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 14-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.). Panel B charged the Respondent with violating the following provision of the Act:

#### **Health Occ. § 14-404. License denial, suspension, or revocation.**

- (a) *In general.* – Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this subtitle, a disciplinary panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the licensee:

- (3) Is guilty of:

...

- (ii) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine[.]

The American Medical Association (the “AMA”) has addressed medical professionals’ responsibilities regarding political communications:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Board and the disciplinary panels may consider the Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association, but those principles are not binding on the Board or the disciplinary panels. COMAR 10.32.02.16.

### **AMA OPINION 2.3.4**

AMA Opinion 2.3.4, entitled, *Political Communications*, adopted in 1999

and updated in 2016, states in pertinent part:

Physicians enjoy the rights and privileges of free speech shared by all Americans. It is laudable for physicians to run for political office; to lobby for political positions, parties, or candidates; and in every other way to exercise the full scope of their political rights as citizens. Physicians may exercise these rights individually or through involvement with professional societies and political action committees or other organizations.

When physicians wish to express their personal political views to a patient or a parent's family, the physician must be sensitive to the imbalance of power in the patient-physician relationship, as well as to the patient's vulnerability and desire for privacy. Physicians should refrain from initiating political conversations during the clinical encounter.

Physicians must not allow differences with the patient or family about political matters to interfere with the delivery of professional care.

On October 29, 2025, Panel B was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution ("DCCR") in this matter. Based on the negotiations occurring as a result of this DCCR, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and Consent.

### **ALLEGATIONS OF FACT**

Panel B finds the following:

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. At all relevant times, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice on June 30, 1997, under license number D0052298. The Respondent's license is presently active and expires on September 30, 2027, subject to renewal.

2. The Respondent is currently licensed to practice medicine in California. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice medicine in California on August 23, 1995, under license number G81889. The Respondent's California license is presently active and scheduled to expire on October 31, 2025.

3. The Respondent is board-certified in infectious disease.

4. From on or about May 2024 until on or about December 2024, the Respondent worked at a primary and urgent care center ("Urgent Care")<sup>2</sup> in Montgomery County, Maryland.

## **II. COMPLAINTS**

5. On or about June 28, 2024, the Board received a complaint ("Complaint 1") from a patient ("Patient 1") regarding the Respondent based upon her medical appointment with him at Urgent Care on or about June 24, 2024.

6. On or about August 13, 2024, the Board received a complaint ("Complaint 2") from another patient ("Patient 2") regarding the Respondent based upon her medical appointment with him at Urgent Care on or about June 25, 2024.

7. Both Complaint 1 and Complaint 2 alleged that the Respondent made inappropriate comments to them about topics that were unrelated to the reasons they were seeking medical treatment.

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<sup>2</sup> To maintain confidentiality, the names of all witnesses, facilities, employees, and patients will not be disclosed in this Consent Order.

### III. THE BOARD'S INVESTIGATION

8. Pursuant to its investigation of the complaints, the Board obtained, *inter alia*, medical records for Patients 1 and 2; the Respondent's appointment logs at Urgent Care from January 1, 2024 through November 25, 2024; and the Respondent's human resources/personnel file from Urgent Care. The Board also conducted under-oath interviews of Patients 1 and 2, a former executive of Urgent Care (the "Executive"), and the Respondent.

9. Board staff conducted an under-oath interview with Patient 1 on November 22, 2024, during which Patient 1 stated she went to Urgent Care for severe abdominal pain, nausea, and chills on June 24, 2024; however, during the appointment, the Respondent made inappropriate comments to her regarding his political opinions, her decision to take birth control, and her decision to breastfeed her children. When Patient 1 mentioned to the Respondent that she was breastfeeding her seven-month-old twins, the Respondent asked, "Why are you still doing that?"

10. Patient 1 stated that the Respondent's comments made her feel "weird" and "uncomfortable." Patient 1 thought, "[I]f the pain I'm experiencing isn't serious enough for the doctor to be talking about the pain instead of all these other tangents, then I must not be that sick."

11. Board staff conducted an under-oath interview with Patient 2 on November 4, 2024, during which Patient 2 stated that on or about June 25, 2024, she went to Urgent Care for a terrible cough that seemed to be getting worse. After Urgent Care staff took her height and weight, they brought her to a small room and told her the doctor would be in to

see her in a few minutes. The Respondent walked in the room, “stared directly at [Patient 2’s] breasts[,]” and said, “[H]ello, I’m Dr. Verma . . . have those been surgically enhanced?” Patient 1 responded, “[N]o, what does that have to do with my lungs?” The Respondent replied, “They look like they have been.”

12. Due to his comments, when the Respondent listened to Patient 2’s lungs, she felt “awkward, self-conscious” and “vulnerable.” She “could not wait to get out of there.”

13. The Board’s investigation revealed that on or about July 1, 2024, the Executive informed the Respondent about complaints Urgent Care had received about the Respondent, and the Executive counseled the Respondent about how to address the issues raised in the complaints. Specifically, the Executive advised the Respondent to be “laser focused” on patients’ medical concerns and to avoid “injecting political viewpoints” into his conversations with patients.

14. On or about March 21, 2025, Board staff conducted an under-oath interview of another patient (“Patient 4”) who had been seen by the Respondent at Urgent Care on June 10, 2024, for a general medical examination. Patient 4 testified in part:

- a. The Respondent called Patient 4 a “pill popper” while discussing what medications she takes;
- b. The Respondent asked Patient 4 why she was taking anxiety medication, and told Patient 4 that she had “nothing to be anxious about” because the Respondent’s favored political candidate, “our one true leader would be president[.]” Patient 4 told the Respondent that is “not really relevant,” and the Respondent replied, “I’m the doctor”;
- c. The Respondent asked Patient 4 if she was regularly tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Patient 4 replied that she has had the same partner for a long time, and the Respondent asked how

she knows her partner is not cheating on her if she is not getting STD testing;

- d. Patient 4 generally went to Urgent Care for her primary care; however, following her experience with the Respondent on June 10, 2024, she switched to a different practice.

15. In his under-oath interview with Board staff on May 7, 2025, the Respondent testified in part:

- a. When asked about his comments on Patient 1's birth control and breastfeeding, the Respondent stated, "I'm not denying it. I'm just not sure why I even went down that track when she has other pressing issues. Maybe I just got distracted on something[;]"
- b. The Respondent acknowledged it was "[p]robably not" appropriate for him to ask Patient 2 whether her breasts had been surgically enhanced when she came to Urgent Care for treatment for a cough;
- c. The Respondent bases his medical opinions on non-medical sources, including political or news websites;
- d. The Respondent shares information that he gets from non-medical sources, including political or news websites, with patients during medical appointments.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the Findings of Fact, Disciplinary Panel B of the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent: Is guilty of: Unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii).

### ORDER

It is, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of Disciplinary Panel B of the Board, hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is placed on probation<sup>3</sup> for a minimum period of **SIX (6) MONTHS** from the effective date of this Consent Order. During probation, the Respondent is required to take and successfully complete **TWO courses**: (1) a course in Ethics; and (2) a course in Professional Boundaries. The following terms apply:

- (a) it is the Respondent's responsibility to locate, enroll in and obtain the disciplinary panel's approval of the courses before the courses are begun;
- (b) the Respondent must provide documentation to the disciplinary panel that the Respondent has successfully completed the courses;
- (c) the courses may not be used to fulfill the continuing medical education credits required for license renewal;
- (d) the Respondent is responsible for the cost of the courses; and it is further

**ORDERED** that within **ONE (1) YEAR**, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000)**. The Payment shall be by money order or bank certified check made payable to the Maryland Board of Physicians and mailed to P.O. Box 37217, Baltimore, Maryland 21297. The Board will not renew or reinstate the Respondent's license if the Respondent fails to timely pay the fine to the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall not apply for early termination of probation; and it is further

**ORDERED** that a violation of probation constitutes a violation of this Consent Order; and it is further

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<sup>3</sup> If the Respondent's license expires during the period of probation, the probation and any conditions of probation, will be tolled.

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall not be amended or modified, and future requests for modification will not be considered by the Board or a disciplinary panel; and it is further

**ORDERED** that after the minimum period of probation imposed by the Consent Order has passed, and the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all terms and conditions of probation, the Respondent may submit a written petition for termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the Applicant's probation may be terminated through an order of the disciplinary panel. The Respondent may be required to appear before the disciplinary panel to discuss his petition for termination. The disciplinary panel may grant the petition to terminate the probation, through an order of the disciplinary panel, if the Respondent has complied with all the probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending complaints relating to the charges; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings followed by an exceptions process before a disciplinary panel; and if there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before a disciplinary panel; and it is further

**ORDERED** that after the appropriate hearing, if the disciplinary panel determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Respondent, place the



Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice medicine in Maryland. The disciplinary panel may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine on the Respondent; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the effective date of the Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board or her designee. The Executive Director or her designee signs the Consent Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

11/25/2025  
Date

***Signature on file***

Christine A. Farrelly  
Executive Director  
Maryland Board of Physicians

### CONSENT

I, Divya Verma, M.D., acknowledge that I have consulted with counsel before signing this document.

By this Consent, I agree to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understand that the disciplinary panel will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

I assert that I am aware of my right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-405 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* concerning the pending charges. I waive this right and have elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive those procedural and substantive protections. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary panel to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order.

I voluntarily enter into and agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the charges. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. I waive all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, and fully understand the language and meaning of its terms.

*Signature on file*

11/20/2025  
Date

Divya Verma M.D.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, Divya Verma, M.D. personally appeared and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.



Angela G. Mays  
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 05/18/2028