BEFORE THE
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of

BRUCE DONALD CARLSON, MD
LICENSE NO. MD07786

INTERIM STIPULATED ORDER

1.

The Oregon Medical Board (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining certain health care providers, including physicians, in the state of Oregon. Bruce Donald Carlson, MD (Licensee) is a licensed physician in the state of Oregon and holds an active medical license.

2.

The Board received credible information regarding Licensee that resulted in the Board initiating an investigation. The results of the Board’s investigation to date have raised concerns to the extent that the Board believes it necessary that Licensee agree to certain terms until the investigation is completed.

3.

In order to address the Board’s concerns, Licensee and the Board agree to the entry of this Interim Stipulated Order, which is not an admission of any wrongdoing on the part of the Licensee, and will remain in effect while this matter remains under investigation, and provides that Licensee shall comply with the following conditions:

3.1 Licensee must not begin treatment for chronic pain with opioids for any new or existing patient. For the purposes of this Order, chronic pain is defined as pain that persists or progresses over a period of time greater than 30 days.

3.2 Licensee must immediately begin to taper opioid medications for any chronic pain patient with an MED over 90 by at least 10% per month until patient’s MED is 90 or less.
Alternatively, Licensee may transfer the care of any patient with an MED over 90 to another physician. Licensee may continue to prescribe greater than 90 MED for chronic pain for patients who are currently enrolled in hospice or who are currently receiving treatment for a diagnosis of cancer. Licensee must certify on the written prescription that the patient is a hospice or cancer patient.

3.3 Licensee must limit his prescribing for acute pain to less than 30 days per year, and with a maximum morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 50.

3.4 For patients taking benzodiazepines and opioids, who have an MED of 90 or less or who have been first tapered to an MED of 90 or less, Licensee must begin to taper benzodiazepines. Licensee must taper by at least 10% per month until the patient is weaned off benzodiazepines. Alternatively, Licensee may transfer the care of any patient for whom he is prescribing benzodiazepines and opioids to another physician. Licensee may continue to prescribe benzodiazepines to patients who are currently enrolled in hospice or have a life expectancy of less than six months. Licensee must certify on the written prescription that the patient is a hospice or cancer patient.

3.5 For current patients who are prescribed opioids with benzodiazepines, tapering will occur as outlined in terms 3.2 and 3.4, and subsequent to tapering, Licensee must not concomitantly prescribe opioids with benzodiazepines.

3.6 Licensee must not concomitantly prescribe opioids with carisoprodol (Soma).

3.7 Licensee understands that violating any term of this Order will be grounds for disciplinary action under ORS 677.190(17).

3.8 Licensee understands this Order becomes effective the date he signs it.

4.

At the conclusion of the Board’s investigation, the Board will decide whether to close the case or to proceed to some form of disciplinary action. If the Board determines, following that review, not to lift the requirements of this Order, Licensee may request a hearing to contest that decision.
This order is issued by the Board pursuant to ORS 677.410, which grants the Board the authority to attach conditions to the license of Licensee to practice medicine. These conditions will remain in effect while the Board conducts a complete investigation in order to fully inform itself with respect to the conduct of Licensee. Pursuant to ORS 677.425, Board investigative materials are confidential and shall not be subject to public disclosure, nor shall they be admissible as evidence in any judicial proceeding. However, as a stipulation this Order is a public document and is reportable to the National Databank and the Federation of State Medical Boards.

IT IS SO STIPULATED THIS 1st day of September, 2017.

BRUCE DONALD CARLSON, MD

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 12th day of September, 2017.
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD
State of Oregon

JOSEPH J. THALER, MD
Medical Director