



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Registration in Medicine

200 Harvard Mill Square, Suite 330
Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880
(781) 876-8200

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Enforcement Division Fax: (781) 876-8381
Legal Division Fax: (781) 876-8380
Licensing Division Fax: (781) 876-8383

STANCEL M. RILEY, JR. MD.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 15, 2011

Greggory C. Dumke
52 Parish Path
Marshfield, Massachusetts 02050

Re: Gabrielle H. Sousa, M.D.
Docket Number: 11-026


Dear Mr. Dumke:

Thank you for the information that you provided to the Board of Registration in Medicine. A copy of your complaint, referenced above, was sent to the physician, who was required to respond in writing. Enclosed please find a copy of the physician's response.

After considering this matter on April 6, 2011, the Board's Complaint Committee did not recommend disciplinary action and closed the complaint. However, your complaint and the physician's response will be placed in the physician's file at the Board.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to the Board's attention.

Very truly yours,


Paula Hannon
Consumer Protection Coordinator

PH/bmh
Enclosure



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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MICHAEL J. KERRIGAN
ROSS A. KIMBALL
JOHN MCCORMACK
BRIAN H. SULLIVAN

THREE CENTER PLAZA
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108
TELEPHONE: (617) 523-6010
FAX: (617) 227-0927
FAX: (617) 523-2181

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE:
127 DORRANCE STREET
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903
TELEPHONE: (401) 490-9987

WWW.SLOANEWALSH.COM
WRITER'S DIRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS: EHINCHEY@SLOANEWALSH.COM

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*Also admitted

February 25, 2011

Ms. Paula Hannon
Consumer Protection Coordinator
Board of Registration in Medicine
200 Harvard Mill Square, Suite 330
Wakefield, MA 01880

RE: Docket Number 11-026

Dear Ms. Hannon:

Please accept this correspondence as a response on behalf of Dr. Gabrielle H. Sousa in connection with the Complaint forwarded by Gregory Dumke.

First, and certainly foremost, Dr Sousa believes that she provided appropriate care to ~~the patient~~ when she saw him on January 4, 2010. While it is unfortunate that there appears to be some type of a conflict between ~~the patient's~~ parents, the care provided by Dr. Sousa and the discharge instructions which she gave, were entirely appropriate.

By way of background, Dr. Sousa is a Family Physician practicing at Harbor Medical Associates. She graduated from Smith College and then went on to medical school at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She then did her residency in family medicine at Tufts University, with a concentration in care of infants, children and adolescents. Dr. Sousa is especially aware of issues surrounding the care of adolescents. (Enclosed is a copy of Dr. Sousa's Curriculum Vitae).

On January 4, 2010 Dr. Sousa saw ~~the patient~~ at the offices of Harbor Medical Associates. ~~the patient~~ is a patient of one of Dr. Sousa's colleagues, Dr. John Stanley. On that date, apparently ~~the patient~~ had an urgent visit and was slotted in to see Dr. Sousa. The initial chief complaint reported at the time of presentation was "cough." When Dr. Sousa saw the patient she elicited additional information, including a report of a stomach ache since yesterday (Sunday). She also obtained a history that while standing in church ~~the patient~~ had experienced dizziness, a sense

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that his "vision got dark," and a feeling that he had to support himself. Dr. Sousa learned that ~~John~~ had skipped breakfast prior to going to church and that after a brief period he felt fine. The doctor also elicited a history that there had been a similar incident one year previous, also associated with skipping breakfast and that ~~John~~ had been seen at that occasion at South Shore Hospital.

On physical exam, ~~John~~ appeared essentially within normal limits. In particular his abdomen was positive for bowel sound, soft, non tender, and non-distended. Tympanic membranes were normal, ear canal was normal, eyes were normal, throat and neck were normal, lungs were clear, and sinuses were non tender. In the course of the physical exam, Dr. Sousa noted the weight to be 70.5 pounds and looked back in the chart recording the three previous weights going back to April 25, 2009. This revealed that over the course of the previous eight months there had been a five pound weight loss, and over the recent three months a noted ten pound weight loss.

Dr. Sousa also electronically accessed the South Shore Hospital medical record for the prior episode, which had occurred on October 27, 2008. She noted in her record, at South Shore an EKG had been normal, labs had been within normal limits, head CT normal, and a diagnosis of likely vasovagal syncope had been entered.

Dr. Sousa then had an EKG done in the office which was normal.

Dr. Sousa then sat with Mrs. Demke and ~~John Demke~~ to discuss her findings and to develop a plan of care. Initially the discussion focused on the presenting symptom of cough. Dr. Sousa thought this was most likely viral and recommended supportive care with over the counter cough suppressant. She further indicated that the family should call if symptoms persist or worsen.

They next discussed the feeling of faintness that ~~John~~ had experienced on the previous day at church. Dr. Sousa thought this was most likely a syncopal episode similar to what had been reported in October 2008. They discussed the fact that the EKG was normal. She then discussed with Mrs. Demke whether a further evaluation should follow and noted that Dr. Stanley had previously given a referral to Children's Hospital's Department of Pediatric Cardiology and discussed with Mrs. Demke whether she wanted to follow through with that. It was Dr. Sousa's opinion that this was most likely a vasovagal syncope episode, but that she should discuss this with Dr. Stanley and should consider a further work up.

Lastly, they discussed the weight loss issue, specifically the fact that since September of 2009, there had been a noted ten pound weight loss. Neither ~~John Demke~~, nor Mrs. Demke reported anything unusual other than the fact that ~~John~~ had been feeling ill for the past two days. Under these circumstances Dr. Sousa made a recommendation to continue to monitor given that there was no obvious GI issue that had been identified. She specifically discussed with Mrs. Demke following up with Dr. Stanley on this issue.

This was Dr. Sousa's sole involvement with the care of ~~John Demke~~. On that date, ~~John~~ was a nine year old boy who presented with a chief complaint of cough. That complaint was addressed, as were additional issues that were identified by Dr. Sousa during the course of the evaluation, including an apparent syncopal episode and a documented weight loss. There was nothing in the course of this evaluation that suggested that ~~John Demke~~ had subject to any abusive care, nor was there anything reported by either ~~John Demke~~ or Mrs. Demke that would have in anyway alerted Dr. Sousa to potential inappropriate parental care. To the contrary, ~~John Demke~~ and his mother interacted appropriately and gave no indication that there was any difficulty at home. For your information, consistent with the recommendation of Dr. Sousa, two weeks later on January 18, 2010 ~~John Demke~~ was seen by his primary care physician, Dr. John Stanley. On that date, Dr. Stanley met with Mrs. Demke and Mr. Demke. (On that date Dr. Stanley again reviewed all of these issues with both parents.

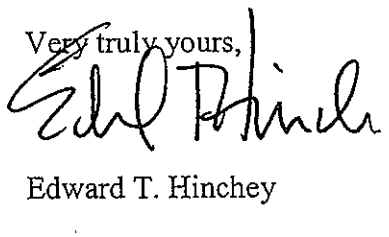
Let me touch on the issue of ~~John Demke's~~ medical records. Dr. Sousa has no responsibility for the medical records of ~~John Demke~~. The maintenance of the records and the production of the records is appropriately handled by the professional staff at Harbor Medical Associates, who provide records consistent with the patient's right to privacy. Dr. Sousa produced a single written page for her evaluation on January 4, 2010. This page was written on the date that she saw ~~John Demke~~ and has not been altered or edited in any fashion since that date. (A copy of Dr. Sousa's note of January 4, 2010, and Dr. Stanley's note of January 18, 2010 are attached).

Dr. Sousa specifically denies that she inappropriately failed to contact any state authorities regarding the care being provided to ~~John Demke~~ by his mother. During the course of this single encounter there was nothing in the history that was provided, nor anything in the physical exam, nor anything that was reported by ~~John Demke~~ or his mother, nor any impression from their interactions that would have or should have led Dr. Sousa to conclude that there was any concern for abuse in the household.

In closing, Dr. Sousa has committed her professional career to caring for families, and has a particular interest in the care of adolescent patients. At all times her care of ~~John Demke~~ was appropriate and is what would be expected from a physician in similar circumstances.

If there is anything further that can be provided please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Edward T. Hinchey

ETH/lsp
Enclosures