IN THE MATTER OF

BEFORE THE MARYLAND

PAUL BEALS, M.D.

\* STATE BOARD OF

Respondent

PHYSICIANS

License Number: D25922

**Case Number: 2225-0116** 

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE

Disciplinary Panel A ("Panel A") of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the "Board") hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **PAUL BEALS**, **M.D.** (the "Respondent"), License Number D25922, to practice medicine in the State of Maryland.

Panel A takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov't ("State Gov't") §10-266(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.) and Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") 10.32.02.08B(7), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

## **INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

Based on information received by, and made known to Panel A, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by, and made known to and available to Panel A, including the instances described below, Panel A has reason to believe that the following facts are true<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the basis of Panel A's action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

Panel A is summarily suspending the Respondent's license to practice medicine after a Board investigation determined that he has health conditions that affects his ability to practice medicine safely.

# Background/Licensing Information

- 1. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice medicine in Maryland on December 19, 1980 under license number D25922. His license is currently active through September 30, 2026, subject to renewal.
  - 2. The Respondent is board-certified in Family Medicine.
- 3. The Respondent maintains a family medicine practice in Stevensville, Maryland.

# The Board Investigation

- 4. On December 16, 2024, the Board received a complaint from a patient of the Respondent alleging that the Respondent may have a health condition that affects his ability to practice medicine safely.
- 5. On January 17, 2025, Board staff conducted an on-site visit at the Respondent's medical office. Board staff noted significant concerns regarding the Respondent's ability to understand the reason for their visit and his current state of mind.
- 6. Furthermore, family members of the Respondent were present and provided conflicting information regarding the Respondent's current practice. They also shared concerns regarding the Respondent's ability to practice.
- 7. Based on the information contained in the complaint and information gathered during the on-site visit, on January 22, 2025, the Board sent the Respondent a

letter and an email directing the Respondent to appear at the office of the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program ("MPRP") on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. for an intake evaluation for purposes of scheduling an examination.<sup>2</sup>

- 8. The letter and email also advised the Respondent that pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations § 14-402(c), the unreasonable failure or refusal to submit to an examination is *prima facie* evidence of a licensed medical practitioner's inability to practice medicine, unless the Board finds that the failure or refusal was beyond the control of the individual.
- 9. On January 22, 2025, the Respondent replied to the email notification acknowledging receipt of the communication and asking who to contact at MPRP.
- 10. On January 27, 2025, the Board again advised the Respondent via email of the requirement to present himself for the intake appointment with MPRP on January 29, 2025.
- 11. On January 29, 2025, the Respondent informed the Board that he was unable to attend the intake appointment with the Program due to a recent injury. The intake appointment was rescheduled to February 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- 12. On February 3, 2025, the Board sent the Respondent an email advising him that he was still required to attend the intake appointment with MPRP at 10:00 a.m.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Maryland Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations § 14-402(a), authorizes the Board to direct any licensed physician regulated by the Board...to submit to an appropriate evaluation.

- 13. On February 3, 2025, the Respondent failed to appear for the rescheduled appointment.
- 14. On February 21, 2025, the Board notified the Respondent via email and letter sent by overnight delivery that he had one final opportunity to appear for an appointment with MPRP, which was scheduled for February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- 15. The letter and email, again, notified the Respondent that pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations § 14-402(c), the unreasonable failure or refusal to submit to an examination is *prima facie* evidence of a licensed medical practitioner's inability to practice medicine, unless the Board finds that the failure or refusal was beyond the control of the individual.
- 16. The Respondent did not appear for the appointment on February 26, 2025, and Dr. Beals did not notify the Board or MPRP of any reason that he was unable to appear.

## **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based upon the foregoing Investigative Findings, Panel A concludes that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and that pursuant to State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7), the Respondent's license is summarily suspended.

#### **ORDER**

**IT IS** thus, by Panel A of the Board, hereby:

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested in Panel A by State Gov't. §10-226(c)(2)(2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.) and COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7), the Respondent's

license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that during the course of the summary suspension, the Respondent shall not practice medicine in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that in accordance with Md. Code Regs. 10.32.02.08B(7) and E, a post deprivation initial hearing on the summary suspension will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. at the Board's offices, located at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215-0095; and it is further

ORDERED that after the SUMMARY SUSPENSION hearing before Panel A, the Respondent, is dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, may request, within ten (10) days, an evidentiary hearing, such hearing to be set within thirty (30) days of the request, before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings, Administrative Law Building, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031-1301; and it is further

**ORDERED** that a copy of the Order for Summary Suspension shall be filed by Panel A immediately in accordance with Health Occ. § 14-407(a)(2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.); and it is further

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

02/26/2025 Date Signature On File

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director Maryland State Board of Physicians