

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
SUN PARK, R.Ph.	*	MARYLAND STATE BOARD
Respondent	*	OF PHARMACY
License No. 10586	*	Case No. 23-419
* * * * *		* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (“the Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **Sun Park** (“the Respondent”), License Number **10586**, to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c) (2022 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.34.01.12, having concluded that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

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

Respondent’s Licensure and Employment

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice in

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for the Board’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 this matter.

Maryland on or about July 31, 1985. The Respondent's license is active and is set to expire on September 30, 2024.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacist at a national chain pharmacy ("the Pharmacy")² location ("Store 1") in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Complaint and Board Investigation

3. On or about May 18, 2023, the Pharmacy notified the Board that one of its pharmacists, the Respondent, signed a written statement in which she admitted to filling phentermine³ prescriptions for herself without a prescription.
4. In response, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent under Case Number 23-419. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained and reviewed, *inter alia*, documents from the Pharmacy's internal investigation.

Pharmacy Internal Investigation

5. The Pharmacy initiated an internal investigation in April 2023 after an employee flagged several prescriptions for phentermine from Store 1 and connected to the RX Manager of Store 1, the Respondent, as potentially fraudulent.
6. The Pharmacy's electronic record system revealed seven phentermine prescriptions dating back to July 2022 under Patient Profile 1 listed as phoned in by one specific prescriber ("Dr. L.K.") and processed by the Respondent, as well as several additional phentermine prescriptions with similar characteristics, also ostensibly prescribed by Dr. L.K., under Patient Profile 2.

² For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the names of all individuals referenced in this document by contacting the Administrative Prosecutor.

³ Phentermine, a Schedule IV controlled substance, is a sympathomimetic medication (sympathetic nervous system stimulant) prescribed for weight-management.

7. The Pharmacy's purchase/payment tender records link the Respondent to the purchase of several of the fraudulent prescriptions from both patient profiles.
8. Video footage from Store 1's security cameras shows the Respondent paying for one of the fraudulent phentermine prescriptions in April 2023 without any patient present at the register and taking it from the store.
9. In May 2023, a representative of the Pharmacy met with Dr. L.K., the prescriber listed for the phentermine prescriptions under investigation. Dr. L.K. stated that she does not phone in prescriptions, she has not prescribed phentermine, and that neither of the patients listed in the two patient profiles were her patients.
10. On May 16, 2023, the Pharmacy's Senior Manager of Investigations interviewed the Respondent. During this interview, the Respondent admitted to entering fraudulent prescriptions for phentermine as prescriptions for her sister (listed as the patient in Patient Profile 1) and sister-in-law (listed as the patient in Patient Profile 2) phoned in by prescriber Dr. L.K., running the fraudulent prescriptions through a prescription savings plan, paying for the prescriptions, and taking them for her own personal use. The Respondent explained that she once had a valid prescription for phentermine for weight loss and believes that she became addicted to it for its energy-increasing effects.
11. During the interview, the Respondent also wrote and signed a two-page statement admitting to the above-described misconduct. As part of her written statement, the Respondent provided, *inter alia*, "I been filling phentermine prescription under my sister + sister in law without doctor prescription. . . . I been getting phentermine

without legal doctor prescription. . . . I know it is wrong I been filling as called in Rx + been filling under my sister (which she knows) + my sister in law (she not aware of) + using [Dr. L.K.] as doctor which I know from school and using discount card to process + pay for it myself.”

12. At the conclusion of the interview, the Pharmacy placed the Respondent on suspension and referred the matter to the Howard County Police Department.

Criminal Charges

13. On or about October 6, 2023, the Respondent was criminally charged in case number D-101-CR-23-002292 in the District Court of Maryland for Howard County for unlawfully obtaining phentermine by forging prescriptions, using a false name, and/or making a false prescription.⁴

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, the Board concludes, as a matter of law, that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.34.01.12.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is this 20th day of October 2023, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby:

⁴ The criminal case is pending.

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), the Respondent's license to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland under license number 10586 is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is prohibited from practicing as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately return all licenses to the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be in writing and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS**; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation show cause hearing but fails to appear when scheduled, the Respondent's license will remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019).

10-20-23
Date


Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.

Executive Director

for

Neil B. Leikach, R.Ph., M.Sc., Board President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy