

**DOH** STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 433 River Street, Suite 303

Troy, New York 12180-2299

Barbara A. DeBuono, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Commissioner*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

October 14, 1998

Mr. Robert Bentley, Director  
Division of Professional Licensing Services  
New York State Education Department  
Cultural Education Center  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12230

RE: Jeffrey Askanazi, M.D.  
NYS License No. 127263

Dear Mr. Bentley:

Enclosed is a copy of a Commissioner's Order and Notice of Hearing which summarily suspends Dr. Jeffrey Askanazi's right to practice medicine in the State of New York. This Order was issued on October 7, 1998, and is in effect until further notice.

Sincerely,



Anne F. Saile  
Director  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Daniel Kelleher

STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

-----X

IN THE MATTER : COMMISSIONER'S  
OF : SUMMARY  
JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D. : ORDER

-----X

TO: JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D.  
12445 Stacey Court  
Greenville, MI 48838-9003

The undersigned, Barbara A. DeBuono, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Commissioner of Health of the State of New York, pursuant to N.Y.  
Public Health Law Sec. 230, upon the recommendation of a  
Committee of Professional Medical Conduct, has determined that  
the duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another  
jurisdiction has made a finding substantially equivalent to a  
finding that the practice of medicine by JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D.  
(the Respondent) in that jurisdiction constitutes an imminent  
danger to the health of its people, as is more fully set forth in  
the attached Statement of Facts Supporting Summary Order of  
Suspension, and the documents filed with the Michigan Department  
of Consumer & Industry Services, Board of Medicine (annexed as  
Exhibit A), and made a part hereof.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED, pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law Sec. 230(12)(b),  
that effective immediately, Respondent shall not practice  
medicine in the State of New York. This Order shall remain in  
effect unless modified or vacated by the Commissioner of Health  
pursuant to N.Y. Public Health Law Sec. 230(12).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held pursuant to

the provisions of N.Y. Public Health Law Sec. 230, and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act Sects. 301-307 and 401. The hearing will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct and shall commence within thirty days after the disciplinary proceedings commenced against Respondent in Michigan by Administrative Complaint dated April 27, 1998, and First Amended Administrative Complaint dated May 8, 1998 are finally concluded (N.Y. Public Health Law Sec. 230(12)(b)). The date and location of this hearing will be set forth in a written Notice of Summary Hearing and Statement of Charges to be provided to the Respondent at a later date. The written Notice and Statement of Charges may be provided in person, by mail, or by other means. If Respondent wishes to be provided with this written Notice at an address other than the one noted above, he shall notify both the attorney whose name is set forth in this Order and the Director of the Bureau of Adjudication, New York State Department of Health, Hedley Park Place, 5th Floor, 433 River Street, Troy, New York 12180, (518) 402-0748.

**THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN NEW YORK BE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET FORTH IN NEW YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW SEC. 230-a. YOU ARE URGED TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER.**

DATED: Albany, New York  
October 2, 1998

  
BARBARA A. DeBUONO, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health

Inquiries should be directed to:

MICHAEL J. McTIGHE  
Senior Attorney  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct  
Corning Tower Building, Room 2509  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237-0032  
(518) 473-4282

STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

-----X

IN THE MATTER : STATEMENT OF FACTS  
OF : SUPPORTING SUMMARY  
JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D. : ORDER OF SUSPENSION

-----X

JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D., the Respondent, was licensed to practice medicine in New York State on or about July 1, 1976, by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

By Administrative Complaint dated April 27, 1998, the Michigan Attorney General initiated disciplinary proceedings against JEFFREY ASKANAZI, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") based upon general allegations of: (1) negligence or failure to exercise due care; (2) incompetence (defined in the Michigan Public Health Code as "a departure from or failure to conform to minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice for the health profession,..."); (3) lack of good moral character ("good moral character" is defined in the Michigan Public Health Code as "the propensity on the part of the person to serve the public in the licensed area in a fair, honest, and open manner"); and (4) the promotion for personal gain of an unnecessary drug, device, treatment, procedure, or service. Specific allegations are based on a review of 12 patient records which found: (1) performance of invasive diagnostic and therapeutic pain management

procedures which were reckless, unnecessary, and without a basis in proper pain management; (2) exposure of patients to unnecessary risks of infection due to noncompliance with sterile technique protocols; (3) exposure of patients to unnecessary risks of addiction, narcotic overdose, and suicide; (4) delegation of responsibility for determining dosages and ordering administration of postoperative narcotics utilizing prescriptions which Respondent had pre-signed; (5) failure to perform and document adequate medical histories and physical examinations; (6) failure to dictate patient-specific operative notes, instructing hospital employees to use his "canned" procedure paragraphs; (7) failure to warn patients undergoing pain management procedures of the potentially serious side effects and obtain informed consents. Michigan's Department of Consumer & Industry Services concluded that the public health, safety or welfare required emergency action, and on April 27, 1998, ordered summary suspension of Respondent's license to practice medicine in Michigan.

A petition for dissolution of the summary suspension order was filed by Respondent on May 5, 1998. Hearings on the petition were conducted over eight days in May-June 1998. By Stipulation dated August 18, 1998, Respondent agreed to withdraw his petition for dissolution of the summary suspension, and leave the order of summary suspension in effect pending completion of Michigan's plenary hearing on the administrative complaint and a first amended complaint filed on May 8, 1998.

Upon information and belief, the plenary hearing in Michigan is scheduled to take place in October 1998.

DATED: Albany, New York  
September 30, 1998

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PETER D. VAN BUREN, Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct