

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the License of:	Case No. 23-10-35
Dr. Kristie Ritchey.	AMENDED- Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and Opportunity for Hearing
Licensee	

1.

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board) is the State agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining naturopathic physicians in the State of Oregon, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapter 685 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) chapter 850. Dr. Kristie Ritchey, ND (Licensee) has been a licensed naturopathic physician in the State of Oregon since January 2011 and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.

2.

The Board hereby proposes to take disciplinary action against Licensee's license to practice naturopathic medicine, on the grounds described in the following paragraphs. For each violation, the Board may impose a civil penalty up to \$5,000, a term of probation, a letter of reprimand and license limitation, suspension, or revocation.

3.

Licensee established care with Patient on / about September 5, 2023. Licensee saw Patient two times in person, with her chief complaint was hypothyroid issues. Licensee was aware Patient was being treated by a Cardiologist for Atrial fibrillation (AFib) which is an irregular and often very rapid heart rhythm, which is a serious condition that can cause blood clots in the heart, increases the risk of stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications.

4.

Licensee saw Patient two times in person, on September 5 and 12, 2023. Patient told Licensee her Cardiologist switched her heart medication from Warfarin to Eliquis because it had less perceived side effects. Patient told Licensee Eliquis was very expensive and she could not afford to take Eliquis. Licensee said this conversation happened during one of their office visits, but Licensee did not make a chart note of their conversation.

5.

On September 13, the patient sent an email requesting that Licensee prescribe an alternative to Eliquis. On September 16, Patient called Licensee, explaining she could no longer afford to stay on her prescription of Eliquis, and asked Licensee for a prescription for Warfarin. Warfarin is an anticoagulant [blood thinner]. Warfarin reduces the formation of blood clots. Warfarin is used to

treat or prevent blood clots in veins or arteries, which can reduce the risk of stroke, heart attack, or other serious conditions.

6.

After receiving Patient's request, Licensee consulted Patient's Pharmacist regarding converting the Warfarin dosage from Eliquis. Licensee wrote a prescription 4mg of Warfarin based on her discussion with the pharmacist. Prior to prescribing, Licensee reviewed the patient's most recent ECHO report, but did not obtain Patient's Cardiologist's or primary care physician's records or consult with Patient's Cardiologist regarding changing the prescription from Eliquis to 4mg of Warfarin or confirm their basis for changing the prescription. Licensee did not inform Patient's Cardiologist she prescribed Patient 4mg of Warfarin.

7.

Licensee called Patient on September 16, to provide dosage instructions for the Warfarin prescription– half of 4mg tablet for the first two days, and a full tablet from the third day forward. Licensee also instructed the patient to obtain an International Normalized Ratio (INR) and Prothrombin Time (PT) blood test no later than two weeks from the date of the prescription- An INR / PT test measures how well a patient is responding to Warfarin by measuring how fast a blood sample forms a clot. The Patient did not follow through with the blood test as instructed. Patient was admitted to the hospital on October 18, 2023, where Patient's INR was >10. Target Range for Anticoagulants (2.0-3.0): This range is often used for individuals on Warfarin to prevent blood clots in conditions like atrial fibrillation or deep vein thrombosis. Higher INR (above 3.5): Can increase the risk of bleeding, including internal bleeding.

8.

Licensee was aware Patient's Cardiologist changed their medication from Warfarin to Eliquis - because it had less perceived side effects. Licensee changed Patient's prescription without contacting or obtaining medical records from the Patient's Cardiologist or their primary care physician's records pertaining to Patient's prescription management prior to, or concurrently with, changing Patient's prescription from Eliquis to 4mg of Warfarin. Licensee changed the prescription without knowledge of the Patient's response to Warfarin, including the efficacy of Warfarin for Patient's condition and whether Patient experienced negative side effects from the drug. Licensee's failure to contact Patient's Cardiologist to discuss changing Patient's medication back to Warfarin prevented their Cardiologist from adequately monitoring the Patient or advise Patient about prevention measures to minimize risk of bleeding and to report signs and symptoms of bleeding. The aforementioned conduct constitutes a violation of 850-050-0010(1)(c)(A) Negligent prescribing.

9.

For the violations described above; the Board proposes the following discipline:

- Reprimand
- Civil Penalty: \$1,500

10.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Licensee is entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183). If you want a hearing, you must file a written request for hearing with the Board within 21 days from the date this notice was mailed. You must submit request for hearing to either via email Naturopathic.Medicine@obnm.Oregon.gov or U.S. Mail to Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407, Portland, OR 97232. The request for hearing must be received by the Board within 21 days from the date of mailing of this notice and must be accompanied by a written answer to the charges contained in this Notice. If a request for hearing is not received within 21 days, the right to hearing is waived.

11.

If you request a hearing, you will be notified of the time and place of the hearing. Before the hearing, you will receive information on the procedures, right of representation, and other rights of parties related to the conduct of the hearing. An administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at any hearing. ORS 183.635.

12.

An answer is required to this Notice, pursuant to OAR 850-001-0015, due to the complexity of the matters alleged above. The answer shall be made in writing to the Board and shall include an admission or denial of each factual matter alleged in this Notice, and a short plain statement of each relevant affirmative defense Licensee may have. Except for good cause, factual matters alleged in this notice and not denied in the answer shall be presumed admitted; failure to raise a particular defense in the answer will be considered a waiver of such defense; and new matters alleged in the answer (affirmative defenses) shall be presumed to be denied by the agency and evidence shall not be taken on any issue not raised in the Notice and answer.

13.

If you fail to request a hearing within 21 days, withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Board or administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Board may issue a final order by default revoking your license. If the Board issues a default order, the contents of the Board's file automatically become part of the evidentiary record of this disciplinary action for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS: Active-duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

DATED this __23__ day of __July__ 2025.

BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

State of Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB Baptista', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary-Beth Baptista, JD
Executive Director