STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: Gerald B. R Craigg, MD.,
Master Case No.: M2015-1
Document: Summary Action Order

Regarding your request for information about the above-named practitioner; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Department of Health, Adjudicative Clerk Office. These records are considered Certified by the Department of Health.

Certain information may have been withheld pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld: **NONE**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was withheld, please contact:

Customer Service Center
P.O. Box 47865
Olympia, WA 98504-7865
Phone: (360) 236-4700
Fax: (360) 586-2171

You may appeal the decision to withhold any information by writing to the Privacy Officer, Department of Health, P.O. Box 47890, Olympia, WA 98504-7890.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the License to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of: GERALD B.R. CRAIGG, MD., License No. MD.MD.00044814, Respondent.	Master Case No. M2015-1 EX PARTE ORDER OF SUMMARY RESTRICTION

PRESIDING OFFICER: Roman S. Dixon Jr., Health Law Judge

COMMISSION PANEL: William Gotthold, MD, Chair
William Brueggemann, MD
John Maldon, Public Member

This matter came before the Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) on August 10, 2015, on an Ex Parte Motion for Summary Action (Ex Parte Motion) brought by the Office of the Attorney General. The Commission issued a Statement of Charges alleging Respondent violated RCW 18.130.180 (4) and (7); WAC 246-919-853, WAC 246-919-854, WAC 246-919-855, WAC 246-919-857, WAC 246-919-858, WAC 246-919-860, and WAC 246-919-862. After reviewing the Statement of Charges, the Ex Parte Motion and supporting evidence, the Commission grants the Ex Parte Motion. The Respondent's license to practice as a physician and surgeon is SUMMARILY RESTRICTED pending further action.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1.1 GERALD B.R. CRAIGG, M.D. (Respondent) is a physician and surgeon licensed by the state of Washington at all times applicable to this matter.

1.2 The Commission issued a Statement of Charges alleging Respondent violated RCW 18.130.180 (4) and (7); WAC 246-919-853, WAC 246-919-854, WAC 246-919-855, WAC 246-919-857, WAC 246-919-858, WAC 246-919-860, and WAC 246-919-862. The Statement of Charges was accompanied by all other documents required by WAC 246-11-250.

1.3 As set forth in the allegations in the Statement of Charges, as well as the Ex Parte Motion, the Respondent exposed patients to an unreasonable risk of harm by his prescribing practices. He prescribed high doses of methadone along with other opioids and benzodiazepines to patients who did not have cancer diagnoses, without:

- patient education of the special risks of methadone,
- adequate informed consent,
- adequate patient treatment or medication histories,
- initial monitoring,
- titration of initial doses,
- explanation of his reasoning for the high doses,
- enforcement of patients' pain contracts,
- reports from consulting pain specialists, and
- adequate treatment plans.

1.4 In the case of Patient A, Respondent's prescription of high-dose methadone without titration or monitoring to a methadone-naïve patient, in combination with incorrect dosing instructions for the patient's caregivers, created an unreasonable

risk of harm and/or death. Patient A died from methadone intoxication within three days of Respondent's methadone prescription.

1.5 The above allegations, supported by the Declaration of the Investigator in Support of Motion for Summary Action, together with the attached exhibits, establish an unacceptably high risk to public health, safety, or welfare. Moreover, the allegations support a determination of immediate danger to the public and further justify a decision to immediately restrict Respondent from prescribing Schedule II and III narcotics and Schedule IV controlled substances until a hearing on the matter is held.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 The Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent's credential to practice as a physician and surgeon. RCW 18.130.040.

2.2 The Commission has authority to take emergency adjudicative action to address an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. RCW 34.05.422(4); RCW 34.05.479; RCW 18.130.050(8); and WAC 246-11-300.

2.3 The Findings of Fact establish the existence of an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare if Respondent has an unrestricted license. The Findings of Fact establish that the requested summary action is necessary, and is the least restrictive alternative that adequately addresses the danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

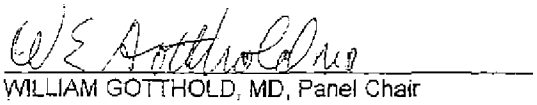
III. ORDER

3.1 Based on the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law, it is ORDERED that Respondent's license to practice as a physician and surgeon is

SUMMARILY RESTRICTED as follows, pending further disciplinary proceedings by the Commission: Respondent is restricted from prescribing Schedule II and III narcotics and Schedule IV controlled substances. The Commission further orders that within five business days of the Commission's Order, Respondent must provide the local office of the Drug Enforcement Administration with a copy of this Order.

3.2 It is HEREBY ORDERED that a Protective Order in this case is GRANTED. RCW 34.05.446(1) and WAC 246-11-400(2) and (5). This Protective Order prohibits the release of health care information outside of these proceedings. Unless required by law, anyone involved in these proceedings must keep confidential and not disclose health care information obtained through these proceedings. Health care information includes information in any form "that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and directly relates to the patient's health care." RCW 70.02.010. The parties may share the information with their attorney, if any.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2015.



WILLIAM GOTTHOLD, MD, Panel Chair

For more information, visit our website at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/Hearings.aspx