BEFORE THE
PERFUSIONIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re: )
 )
Maria Sass, L.P. ) CONSENT ORDER )
 )
Respondent. )

This matter is before The Perfusionist Advisory Committee of the North Carolina Medical Board (hereafter, “Committee”) on information regarding Maria Sass, L.P., (hereafter, “Ms. Sass”). Ms. Sass admits, and the Committee finds and concludes, that:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Committee is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Article 40 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Sass is a perfusionist licensed by the Committee, license number 1000-00203.

During the time relevant herein, Ms. Sass practiced perfusion in Durham, North Carolina.
In August 2014, Ms. Sass was evaluated by the North Carolina Physicians Health Program (hereafter, “NCPHP”) after being arrested for Driving While Impaired.

In October 2014, Ms. Sass underwent residential treatment for alcohol use disorder.

After completing residential treatment, Ms. Sass signed a five year monitoring contract with the NCPHP in January 2015.

In January 2015, Ms. Sass obtained and filled a prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance without notifying the NCPHP. Although the Committee has no evidence indicating Ms. Sass ingested the controlled substance, obtaining the drugs was, nonetheless, a violation of her monitoring contract.

In March 2015, Ms. Sass violated her monitoring contract for a second time by consuming alcohol. Ms. Sass self-reported this incident to NCPHP. She appeared before the Committee to discuss the violations of her contract, her consumption of alcohol, and her recovery. At that time, the Committee decided to take no public action against Ms. Sass’s license to practice perfusion.

In March 2016, Ms. Sass obtained and ingested a Schedule IV controlled substance, tramadol. The tramadol was not lawfully
prescribed to Ms. Sass. Ms. Sass’s ingestion of this controlled substance violated her monitoring contract.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Whereas Ms. Sass’s conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-691(a)(4), and grounds exist under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Committee to annul, suspend, revoke, or limit her license to practice perfusion issued by the Committee or deny any application she might make in the future.

**PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS**

Ms. Sass acknowledges and agrees that the Committee has jurisdiction over her and over the subject matter of this case.

Ms. Sass knowingly waives her right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Ms. Sass acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Ms. Sass would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

**ORDER**

Now, therefore, with Ms. Sass’s consent, it is ORDERED that:
1. Ms. Sass’s license to practice perfusion in North Carolina is hereby SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY; however, this suspension is hereby STAYED, except for a period of THIRTY (30) DAYS from the date of this Consent Order in which Ms. Sass shall serve an active SUSPENSION.

2. Ms. Sass shall maintain her current contract with NCPHP and abide by its terms, including the timely payment of any fees required by NCPHP.

3. Unless lawfully prescribed for her by someone other than herself, Ms. Sass shall refrain from the use or possession of alcohol and all other mind- or mood-altering substances and all controlled substances, including, but not limited to, sedatives, stimulants, and pain medications.

4. Ms. Sass shall notify the Committee in writing within ten (10) days of her use of such medication or alcohol. This notice shall include, but shall not be limited to, identification of the prescribing physician and of the pharmacy filling the prescription.

5. Upon request by the Committee, Ms. Sass shall supply urine, blood, hair, or any other bodily fluid or tissue sample the Committee might reasonably require for the purposes of analysis to determine if she has consumed any of the substances
mentioned above. All costs of obtaining and analyzing such samples shall be borne by Ms. Sass.

6. Ms. Sass shall continue and maintain seeing a therapist and addictionologist as recommended by the NCPHP.

7. At the expiration of the thirty day active suspension, Ms. Sass shall not resume practice as a perfusionist until, and unless, she receives approval from the NCPHP and the Vice Chair of the Committee to resume practice.

8. Ms. Sass shall obey all laws. Likewise, she shall obey all rules or regulations involving the practice of medicine.

9. Ms. Sass shall notify the Committee in writing of any change in her residence or practice addresses within ten (10) days of the change.

10. Ms. Sass shall meet with the Committee or members of the Committee for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Committee.

11. Upon an ex parte determination of probable cause by the Committee that Ms. Sass failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, that determination shall constitute grounds for the immediate summary suspension of her North Carolina perfusion license pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 150B-3(c). Furthermore, if Ms. Sass fails to comply with any of
the terms and conditions of this Consent Order that failure shall constitute misconduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-691(a)(5) and shall be additional ground for the Committee to suspend or revoke her license or to deny any application she might make in the future or then have pending for a license.

12. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Ms. Sass and the Committee, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Committee.

13. Ms. Sass hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

14. Upon execution by Ms. Sass and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies, and clearinghouses, as required and permitted by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioners Data Bank.
This the 15th day of April, 2016.

THE PERFUSIONIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: ____________________________

Robert W. Kyle, D.O.
Vice Chair

By: ____________________________

Robert W. Kyle, D.O.
Vice Chair
Consented to this the 14th day of April, 2016.

Maria Sass, L.P.

State of North Carolina

County of Durham

I, Mark R. Soyars, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Maria Sass, L.P., personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal

This the 14th day of April, 2016.

Mark R. Soyars
Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission expires: 4/22/17