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# NAVIGATING COMPLEX DISCIPLINARY CASES: A DIFFICULT CASES DISCUSSION

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# AGENDA

Background

Complaint

Immediate Steps

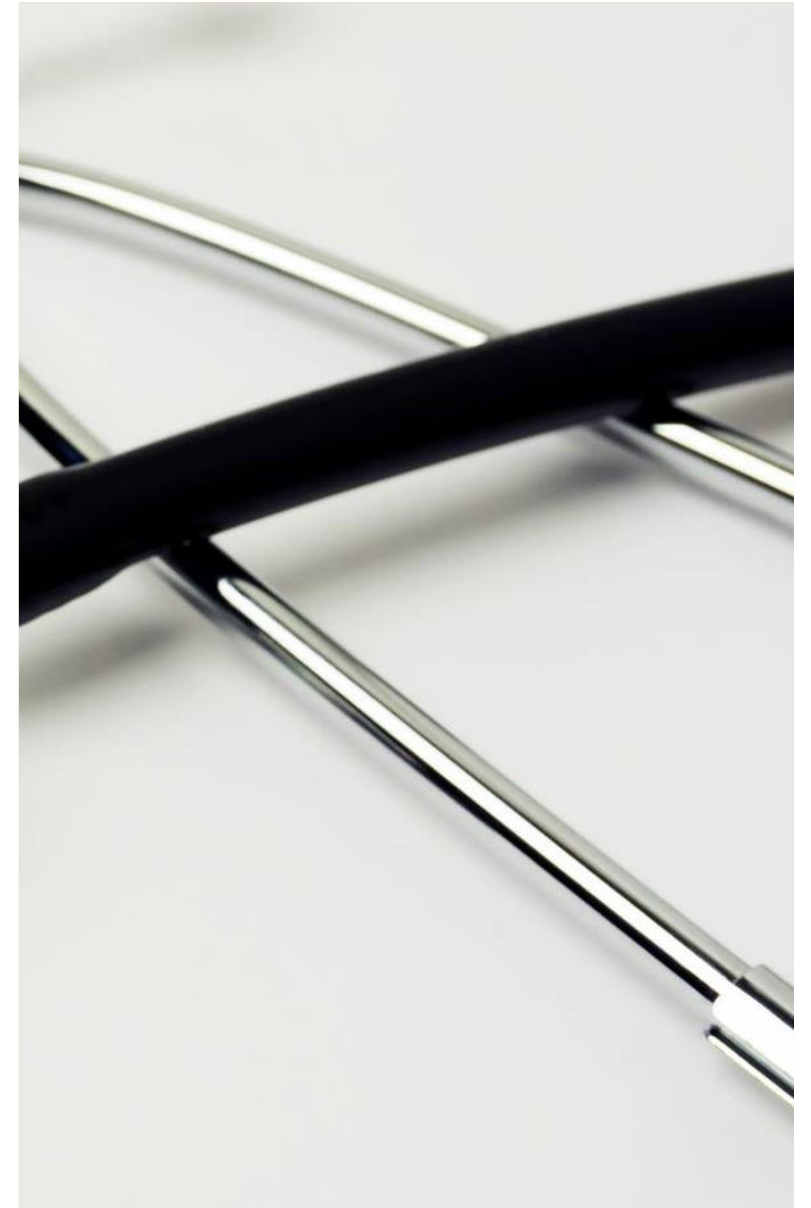
Investigative Steps

Charges

Evidence

Hearing

Discipline



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# PANDAS

## PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER ASSOCIATED WITH STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

1. Children are observed developing tics and OCD symptoms after an infection.
2. First named in 1998, still controversial (not evidence-based); not in the DSM-5; the ICD-11 mentions it under autoimmune central nervous system disorders, but diagnostic criteria are not defined and no specific code for PANS (Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, a broader group) or PANDAS is given.
3. Few practitioners diagnose and treat PANDAS
4. Psychotropic medications to treat tics and OCD are used in treatment. Some practitioners also use prophylactic antibiotic treatments and intravenous immunoglobulin therapies, both of which have a substantial risk of adverse effects



# COMPLAINT

Licensee: Dr. Frank, a PANDAS practitioner

Complainants: 3 former employees: 1 APRN, 2 Pas

## Allegations:

1. Licensee is 72 years old and has not had a fitness-to-practice as CMS requires
2. Staff noticed some cognitive decline following multiple COVID infections and a fall that knocked him out for a couple of minutes
3. He has appeared in the office in a disheveled state
4. Some patients have complained to the staff that he appeared confused
5. Missed work without notice, causing issues for patients who came in from out of state/out of country
6. During weekly podcasts with patients, unable to respond as quickly as in previous years
7. Took a leave of absence “but still reachable via phone every couple of days”
8. In taking over patients during his absence, staff noticed “PANDAS protocols” not followed, and no justification or notation in the medical records
9. Staff noticed prescriptions for diabetes and methadone, and the practice does not treat for diseases meriting those medications
10. Became unreachable; staff told by family members he was in alcohol rehabilitation facility out of state
11. Licensee did contact office to get copy of license to write prescriptions for patients while in rehab treatment facility
12. No pay to staff for over a month
13. He has not paid his business taxes (notice came to the office in his absence)
14. Office and practice closed by complainants after one month of no contact – no pay, unable to handle volume of patients, PA supervision issues
15. Licensee has posted in social media that he is back in the office and his practice will open soon.



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# WE'RE OFF!



- I. Top 3 Concerns?

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# WE'RE OFF!



- 1. Top 3 Concerns?
- 2. Summary Suspension?

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# WE'RE OFF!



- 1. Top 3 Concerns?
- 2. Summary Suspension?
- 3. Next Steps?

# WE'RE OFF!



- 1. Top 3 Concerns?
- 2. Summary Suspension?
- 3. Next Steps?
- 4. Hearing – Venue? Evidence?



# WE'RE OFF!



- 1. Top 3 Concerns?
- 2. Summary Suspension?
- 3. Next Steps?
- 4. Hearing – Venue? Evidence?
- 5. Discipline?

THANK YOU!

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