

VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE**

**IN RE: CRAIG S. CROPP, M.D.  
License No.: 0101-058190**

**ORDER**

In accordance with Sections 54.1-2919 and 9-6.14:11 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held with Craig S. Cropp, M.D., on October 26, 2000, in Roanoke, Virginia. Members of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") serving on the Informal Conference Committee ("Committee") were: Richard Newton, M.D., Chairman; Harry Beaver, M.D.; and Dianne Reynolds-Cane, M.D. Dr. Cropp appeared personally and was represented by legal counsel, Dennis P. Brumberg, Esq. The purpose of the informal conference was to inquire into allegations that Dr. Cropp may have violated certain laws governing the practice of medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated August 30, 2000.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Now, having properly considered the evidence and statements presented, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. By letter dated October 1, 1999, the Medical Executive Committee ("MEC") of Wythe County Community Hospital ("WCCH") issued Dr. Cropp a reprimand based on a review of certain charts. As part of a corrective action plan, the MEC required that Dr. Cropp undergo a 100% retrospective review of all cases performed by him in the operating room and present a plan to comply with the other conditions of the corrective action plan.
2. On December 13, 1999, the MEC recommended to the Board of Directors at WCCH that Dr. Cropp's clinical privileges be revoked based on Dr. Cropp's failure to comply with all of the conditions of the corrective action plan.
3. Effective April 4, 2000, WCCH suspended Dr. Cropp's privileges based on additional patient care issues. In an appellate hearing, the WCCH Board of Directors upheld the MEC's recommendation to terminate Dr. Cropp's privileges, which was effective September 13, 2000.

4. On December 17, 1999, at WCCH, Dr. Cropp performed a total abdominal hysterectomy on Patient J. Following this procedure, Dr. Cropp deemed it necessary to ascertain the integrity of Patient J's ureters and proceeded to perform a cystoscopy, a procedure for which he was not privileged at WCCH. During this procedure, Dr. Cropp deemed it necessary to consult a general surgeon to help interpret his cystoscopic observations.
5. On January 13, 2000, Patient K was admitted to Pulaski Community Hospital ("PCH"), Pulaski, Virginia, with complaints of pelvic pain. While performing a diagnostic laparoscopy, Dr. Cropp perforated the anterior distal sigmoid colon, requiring exploratory laparotomy and colostomy of the distal sigmoid colon. Patient K, who is a nurse, attended the informal conference and reported her complete recovery and stated that she was satisfied with Dr. Cropp's care.
6. On January 17, 2000, Patient L was admitted to PCH with complaints of pelvic pain. After performing an operative laparoscopy with excision and fulguration of endometriosis with dilatation and curettage, Patient L experienced increasing abdominal pain. Dr. Cropp referred her to another physician at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia. On January 23, 2000, an exploratory laparotomy was performed at Roanoke Memorial, which indicated thermal damage to the sigmoid colon that resulted in perforation. Patient L required a temporary colostomy due to peritonitis.
7. By letter dated April 27, 2000, the Medical Executive Committee of PCH notified Dr. Cropp that it suspended his privileges to perform laparoscopic procedures pending the receipt of proof of competency and training in this area. The hospital based its decision on the laparoscopic procedures performed that resulted in injury to Patients K and L, both of whom required corrective surgery.
8. Bob Suddarth, Risk Manager at PCH, reported to the Committee that Dr. Cropp met with the Medical Executive Committee on October 24, 2000, at which time Dr. Cropp's laparoscopic privileges were reinstated without restriction.
9. On April 14, 2000, Dr. Cropp's clinical privileges at New River Valley Medical Center, Radford, Virginia, were suspended based on the suspension of his privileges at WCCH.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Committee defers making Conclusions of Law in this matter.

**ORDER**

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that this matter is CONTINUED GENERALLY upon the following terms and conditions:

1. For a period of six (6) months following entry of this Order, Dr. Cropp shall submit copies of all discharge summaries for deliveries and surgical procedures, to include operative notes listing any and all complications. These reports shall be submitted to the Board on a monthly basis.
2. For a period of one (1) year following entry of this Order, the President of the Medical Staff at Pulaski Community Hospital shall submit reports regarding Dr. Cropp's clinical performance and integration into the medical staff. These reports shall be submitted to the Board on a calendar quarterly basis.
3. Within one year from entry of this Order, the Chairman of the Informal Conference Committee and the Executive Director of the Board will review Dr. Cropp's compliance with these terms to determine whether this matter will be closed with no action or referred for further administrative proceedings.
4. Dr. Cropp shall maintain a course of conduct in his practice of medicine commensurate with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 29 of the Code and all laws of the Commonwealth.
5. Dr. Cropp shall cooperate with the Board and the Department of Health Professions in the investigation or inspection of his practice to verify that he is in compliance with this Order.
6. Dr. Cropp shall notify the Executive Director of the Board, by certified mail, of any change of address within ten (10) days of such occurrence.
7. Dr. Cropp shall notify the Board immediately, in writing, should he intend to change the location of his practice.

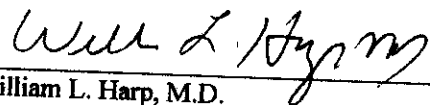
Violation of this Order may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of Dr. Cropp's license. In the event that Dr. Cropp violates this Order, an administrative proceeding may be convened to determine whether his license shall be revoked.

Pursuant to Section 9-6.14:14 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2919 of the Code, Dr. Cropp may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 6, 2000, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 6606 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, in writing, that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

Therefore, this Order shall become final on December 6, 2000, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

FOR THE BOARD



William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

Entered: 11/2/00