

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health**

Health Professional Licensing Administration



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF MEDICINE MOTION FORM**

Meeting Date: December 18, 2013

Agenda Item: ES-13-355

Issue: Peer review report re: Cesare Santangelo, MD

I MOVE that the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Close case.

SIGNATURE: Kelly Colden

Motion Carried

Motion Defeated

Motion Withdrawn

Submitted by:

JO  AA  TD  AD  LF  LM  MR  BF  BA  JS  KC  HL  TS

Seconded by:

JO  AA  TD  AD  LF  LM  MR  BF  BA  JS  KC  HL  TS

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Recuse
Janis Orłowski, MD (JO)	✓			
Andrea Anderson, MD (AA)	✓			
Thomas Dawson, Esq. (TD)	✓			
Anitra Denson, MD (AD)	✓			
Lisa Fitzpatrick, MD (LF)	✓			
Lawrence Manning, (LM)	ABSENT			
Marc Rankin, MD (MR)	ABSENT			
Brendan Furlong, MD (BF)	✓			
Bernard Arons, MD (BA)	✓			
Jeffrey Smith, MD (JS)	✓			
Kelly Ann Colden, MD (KC)	✓			
Howard Liebers, MPH (HL)	✓			
Terrence Straub (TS)	✓			



Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Health



ES-13-355  
KC/AA/LF

**CESARE SANTANGELO, M.D. – Ob/Gyn**

**Issue at Hand:**

The Board considered the peer review report, submitted by Dr. Colden. The review panel found no violations and recommended closure on 11/14/13, but the final report was not yet submitted.

**Background:**

The Board originally reviewed the complaint by Dr. Larsen of GWU/MFA on 7/11/13, which raised concerns regarding Dr. Santangelo's bad outcomes related to abortions. The Board subsequently requested peer review. At the 11/14/13 meeting, Dr. Colden reported the peer review group's findings, and recommended that the complaint be closed.

**Licensure Status:**

Dr. Santangelo has an active DC license, issued in 1987, and currently practices on F Street NW in the District.

**The review panel found no violations, and was satisfied that Dr. Santangelo's complication rate is lower than the standard. He is the 'go to' referral for these kind of high risk cases. The panel recommended that Dr. Santangelo revise his consent form and perform his terminations under ultrasound guidance. They also recommended he be included in routine peer reviews with GWUH.**

**Motion: Close. The Chair will write the closure letter to Dr. Larsen. Also share the panel's report with his attorney, Mr. Belcuore.**

**Seconded**

**Passed Unanimously**

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF MEDICINE MOTION FORM**

Meeting Date: November 14, 2013

Agenda Item: SC-13-207

Issue: Operational Excellence

I MOVE that the Board:

*Discussion only - no motion.*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Carried

Motion Defeated

Motion Withdrawn

Submitted by:

JO  AA  TD  AD  LF  LM  MR  BF  BA  JS  KC  HL  TS

Seconded by:

JO  AA  TD  AD  LF  LM  MR  BF  BA  JS  KC  HL  TS

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Recuse
Janis Orlowski, MD (JO)				
Andrea Anderson, MD (AA)	ABSENT			
Thomas Dawson, Esq. (TD)				
Anitra Denson, MD (AD)				
Lisa Fitzpatrick, MD (LF)				
Lawrence Manning, (LM)	<i>ABSENT</i>			
Marc Rankin, MD (MR)	<i>ABSENT</i>			
Brendan Furlong, MD (BF)				
Bernard Arons, MD (BA)				
Jeffrey Smith, MD (JS)				
Kelly Ann Colden, MD (KC)				
Howard Liebers, MPH (HL)	<i>ABSENT</i>			
Terrence Straub (TS)				



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Board of Medicine



**Additional Items Discussed:**

**Cesare Santangelo, M.D. – Obstetrics & Gynecology**

After encountering three patients experiencing complications following abortions performed by Dr. Santangelo, a complaint was filed by George Washington University Hospital's Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dr. John Larsen. Dr. Colden provided an informal update on the results of the peer review panel charged with reviewing the complaint against Dr. Santangelo. Dr. Colden stated that she met with OB/GYN chairs at Medstar Washington Hospital Center, Howard University Hospital, and Providence Hospital to review the case.

The panel recommended closing the case, because there was no breach in standard of care and any complications were handled in a timely fashion. The panel did, however, make a few recommendations that Dr. Santangelo should consider adopting in his practice:

1. Consider conducting terminations with ultrasound guidance to reduce risk of uterine perforation;
2. Improve provider-referring hospital communication; and
3. Ensure that pre-consent and consent-to-surgery forms are uniform and do not have any differences, thereby preventing miscommunication.

The members of the peer review panel will draft a letter discussing its investigation and findings. This letter will be considered by the full Board at the next meeting for a formal vote.

**This ends the Subcommittee Minutes.**

**Minutes submitted by Deniz Soyer, MBA**

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Janis M. Orlowski, MD – Board Chair

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Date