

**BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the Second
Amended Accusation Against:**

Robert John Santella, M.D.

Case No. 800-2014-002884

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G23945**

Respondent

DECISION

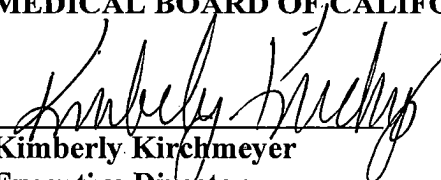
**The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby
adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California,
Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.**

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED August 22, 2017.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By:


**Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Executive Director**

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 231195
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

9
10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

12 In the Matter of the Second Amended
13 Accusation Against:

14 **ROBERT JOHN SANTELLA, M.D.**
15 **4531 College Avenue**
San Diego, California 92115

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
17 **G23945,**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2014-002884

OAH No. 2016-090554

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

19 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
20 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board
23 of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in
24 this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, and by Joseph F.
25 McKenna III, Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. Robert John Santella, M.D., (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by
27 attorney Robert W. Frank, Esq., whose address is 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 2500, San Diego,
28 California, 92101-4959.

3. On or about January 11, 1973, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 and will expire on December 31, 2017, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On May 20, 2016, Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 was filed against Respondent before the Board. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 20, 2016. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. On March 10, 2017, First Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 was filed against Respondent before the Board. A true and correct copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March 10, 2017.

6. On July 17, 2017, Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 was filed against Respondent before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. A true and correct copy of Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 17, 2017. A true and correct copy of Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

7. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

8. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance

1 of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an
2 adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act
3 and other applicable laws.

4 9. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently
5 waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

6 **CULPABILITY**

7 10. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Second
8 Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby
9 surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945 for the Board's formal
10 acceptance.

11 11. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Executive
12 Director of the Board to issue an Order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
13 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate G23945 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
14 heard by, Respondent.

15 **CONTINGENCY**

16 12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent
17 part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a . . .
18 stipulation for surrender of a license."

19 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order shall be subject to approval of the
20 Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated
21 Surrender of License and Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for her consideration
22 in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable
23 period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order
24 after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he
25 may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive
26 Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

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14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in her discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Order on behalf of the Board:

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ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945, issued to Respondent Robert John Santella, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

1. The effective date of this Decision and Order shall be December 31, 2017.

2. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Medical Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.

3. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Medical Board's Decision and Order.

4. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Medical Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Medical Board's Decision and Order.

5. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement of Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945 in the State of California, the Medical Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations, and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent when the Medical Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

Exhibit A

Second Amended Accusation No. 800-2014-002884

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO July 17 20 17
BY Sara Pacion ANALYST

10 BEFORE THE
11 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
12 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 In the Matter of the Second Amended
14 Accusation Against:

15 **ROBERT JOHN SANTELLA, M.D.**
4531 College Avenue
16 San Diego, California 92115

17 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G23945,

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2014-002884
OAH No. 2016-090554

SECOND AMENDED ACCUSATION

19
20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Second Amended Accusation solely
23 in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department
24 of Consumer Affairs, and not otherwise.

25 2. On or about January 11, 1973, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate No. G23945 to Robert John Santella, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges and
28 allegations brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2017, unless renewed.

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4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, be publicly reprimanded which may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses, or have such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

“The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with professional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, professional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

“(b) Gross negligence.

“ . . . ”

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1 7. Section 2242 of the Code states:

2 “(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in
3 Section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication,
4 constitutes unprofessional conduct.

5 “(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct
6 within the meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed,
7 dispensed, or furnished, any of the following applies:

8 “(1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving
9 in the absence of the patient’s physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may
10 be, and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to
11 maintain the patient until the return of his or her practitioner, but in any case no
12 longer than 72 hours.

13 “(2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to
14 a licensed vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following
15 conditions exist:

16 “(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed
17 vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient’s records.

18 “(B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence
19 of the patient’s physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.

20 “(3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the
21 patient’s physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in
22 possession of or had utilized the patient’s records and ordered the renewal of a
23 medically indicated prescription for an amount not exceeding the original
24 prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.

25 “(4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health
26 and Safety Code.”

27 ////

28 ////

1 8. Section 2266 of the Code states:

2 "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate
3 records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes
4 unprofessional conduct."

5 9. Section 4022 of the Code states:

6 "Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for
7 self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

8 "(a) Any drug that bears the legend: 'Caution: federal law
9 prohibits dispensing without prescription,' 'Rx only,' or words of similar import.

10 "(b) Any device that bears the statement: 'Caution: federal law restricts this
11 device to sale by or on the order of a _____,' 'Rx only,' or words of similar import,
12 the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or
13 order use of the device.

14 "(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully
15 dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006."

16 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

17 **(Gross Negligence)**

18 10. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945
19 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2234, subdivision (b),
20 of the Code, in that Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of patients
21 J.R., K.J., R.G., E.H., C.T., V.A., and T.D., as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

22 **Patient J.R.**

23 (a) In or around 1991, Respondent began treating patient J.R. and continued
24 seeing her as a primary care physician for more than twenty (20) years.¹

25 ////

26 ¹ Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Second
27 Amended Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for
28 disciplinary action.

1 (b) Respondent treated patient J.R. for multiple conditions including,
2 chronic pain, myasthenia gravis, anemia and tachycardia.

3 (c) Respondent routinely gave patient J.R. injections of Demerol² and
4 fentanyl³ at office visits, but he did not document in patient J.R.'s progress notes
5 any reasons and/or treatment plan for administering these injections of controlled
6 substances to her.

7 (d) Dosage amounts and lot numbers for controlled substances administered
8 and/or dispensed to patient J.R. are frequently missing from the progress notes.
9 Respondent documented in the progress notes that he had administered the
10 "standard dose" of controlled substances to patient J.R. rather than specify an
11 amount given. However, in many of the progress notes it is unclear whether
12 Respondent actually administered an injection to patient J.R. during these visits.

13 (e) Respondent rarely documented any history or physical examination
14 findings in patient J.R.'s progress notes.

15 (f) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for over twenty (20) years,
16 patient J.R.'s medical records do not contain a clear medical indication
17 documented by Respondent for the use of controlled substances to treat patient
18 J.R.'s pain.

19 (g) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for over twenty (20) years,
20 patient J.R.'s medical records contain only one (1) pain assessment progress note
21 documenting some assessment of the course of treatment she was receiving from
22 Respondent.

23 (h) In a progress note dated April 13, 2012, it is documented that patient
24 J.R. had chronic anemia. Laboratory tests conducted at or around the time of this

25 ² Demerol is a brand name for meperidine, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
26 Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (c), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
Business and Professions Code section 4022.

27 ³ Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
28 section 11055, subdivision (c), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
section 4022.

1 progress note indicated a drop in her hemoglobin level to 7.0, which was lower
2 than the last tested level of 11.7. Significantly, Respondent did not take any action
3 after laboratory tests showed a drop in her hemoglobin level.

4 (i) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
5 patient J.R. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

6 (1) Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records including,
7 but not limited to, failing to document whether controlled substances had been
8 administered and/or dispensed to patient J.R.; failing to document the reasons why
9 controlled substances had been administered and/or dispensed to patient J.R.;
10 failing to document what were the dosages of the controlled substances
11 administered and/or dispensed to patient J.R.; and rarely documenting any history
12 or physical examination findings, treatment plan and/or periodic review during
13 patient J.R.'s course of treatment; and

14 (2) Respondent failed to act on a significantly abnormal blood test result in
15 light of patient J.R.'s diagnosed chronic anemia.

16 **Patient K.J.**

17 (j) In or around 2005, Respondent began treating patient K.J. and continued
18 seeing her as a primary care physician for approximately nine (9) years.⁴

19 (k) Respondent treated patient K.J. for multiple conditions including, lower
20 back pain, arthritic pain in feet and knees, depression and chronic obstructive
21 pulmonary disease.

22 (l) Respondent also treated patient K.J. for uncontrolled hypertension.
23 Patient K.J.'s blood pressure measured at numerous visits was out of control, with
24 systolic ranging between 185 to 196 and diastolic ranging between 110 to 132.
25 There were multiple follow up visits with Respondent where patient K.J.'s blood
26 pressure was not recorded in the progress note. Significantly, Respondent did not

27 ⁴ Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Second
28 Amended Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for
disciplinary action.

1 take any action to look for secondary causes of patient K.J.'s hypertension; nor did
2 he refer patient K.J. to a specialist for assistance with management of her
3 uncontrolled hypertension.

4 (m) To treat patient K.J.'s pain, Respondent initially prescribed her
5 Vicodin⁵; which was then escalated to Vicodin ES and later morphine⁶ plus
6 Vicodin ES. In or around 2012, Respondent began prescribing patient K.J.
7 Dilaudid⁷; which was later changed to and varied between oxycodone,⁸ Percocet⁹
8 and Norco.¹⁰ Significantly, Patient K.J.'s "overuse of pain medications" was noted
9 in a progress note, but Respondent never referred her to a pain management
10 specialist for further evaluation.

11 (n) Respondent routinely gave patient K.J. injections of Demerol and
12 fentanyl at office visits, but he did not document in patient K.J.'s progress notes

13
14 ⁵ Vicodin is a brand name for acetaminophen and hydrocodone bitartrate, a Schedule II
15 controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e), and a
16 dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Note: On or about,
17 August 22, 2014, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rescheduled hydrocodone
18 combination products, which include Vicodin, to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act
(CSA). The DEA's rationale for the move was to combat prescription drug abuse. The
scheduling change went into effect October 6, 2014, at which time Vicodin would be regulated as a
Schedule II drug under the CSA. However, prior to that date Vicodin had been regulated as a
Schedule III drug.

19 ⁶ Morphine is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
20 section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
section 4022.

21 ⁷ Dilaudid is a brand name for hydromorphone, is a Schedule II controlled substance
22 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug
pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

23 ⁸ Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
24 section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
section 4022.

25 ⁹ Percocet is a brand name for oxycodone and acetaminophen, a Schedule II controlled
26 substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous
drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

27 ¹⁰ Norco is a brand name for acetaminophen and hydrocodone bitartrate, a Schedule II
28 controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e), and a
dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Prior to October 6,
2014, Norco was regulated as a Schedule III drug.

1 any reasons and/or treatment plan for administering these injections of controlled
2 substances to her.

3 (o) Dosage amounts and lot numbers for controlled substances
4 administered and/or dispensed to patient K.J. are frequently missing from the
5 progress notes. Respondent documented in the progress notes that he had
6 administered the "standard dose" of controlled substances to patient K.J. rather
7 than specify an amount given. However, in many of the progress notes it is
8 unclear whether Respondent actually administered an injection to patient K.J.
9 during these visits.

10 (p) Respondent rarely documented any history or physical examination
11 findings in patient K.J.'s progress notes.

12 (q) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nine (9)
13 years, patient K.J.'s medical records do not contain a clear medical indication
14 documented by Respondent for the use of controlled substances to treat patient
15 K.J.'s pain.

16 (r) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nine (9)
17 years, patient K.J.'s medical records contain only one (1) pain assessment progress
18 note documenting some assessment of the course of treatment she was receiving
19 from Respondent.

20 (s) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
21 patient K.J. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

22 (1) Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records including,
23 but not limited to, failing to document whether controlled substances had been
24 administered and/or dispensed to patient K.J.; failing to document what were the
25 dosages of the controlled substances administered and/or dispensed to patient K.J.;
26 failing to document the reasons why controlled substances had been prescribed to
27 patient K.J.; and rarely documenting any history or physical examination findings,
28 treatment plan and/or periodic review during patient K.J.'s course of treatment.

1 **Patient R.G.**

2 (t) In or around 1995, Respondent began treating patient R.G. and
3 continued seeing him as a primary care physician for approximately nineteen (19)
4 years.¹¹

5 (u) Respondent treated patient R.G. for multiple conditions including,
6 obesity, diabetes, hepatitis C and peripheral artery disease.

7 (v) Respondent prescribed monthly Percocet refills for patient R.G. due to
8 chronic pain and surgeries. Despite several long gaps between patient visits,
9 Respondent routinely refilled patient R.G.'s monthly Percocet prescription without
10 seeing him. Moreover, Respondent never documented where patient R.G. had
11 been even though he refilled the Percocet prescriptions without seeing Respondent
12 for long periods of time.

13 (w) In or around October 2013, Respondent increased patient R.G.'s
14 prescription quantity of Percocet from one (100) hundred tablets to one hundred
15 fifty (150) tablets but did not document the reason or reasons for increasing the
16 quantity of tablets.

17 (x) Respondent rarely documented any history or physical examination
18 findings in patient R.G.'s progress notes.

19 (y) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nineteen (19)
20 years, patient R.G.'s medical records do not contain a clear medical indication
21 documented by Respondent for the use of controlled substances to treat patient
22 R.G.'s pain.

23 (z) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nineteen (19)
24 years, patient R.G.'s medical records contain only one (1) pain assessment
25 progress note documenting some assessment of the course of treatment he was
26 receiving from Respondent.

27 ¹¹ Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Second
28 Amended Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for
 disciplinary action.

1 (aa) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
2 patient R.G. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

3 (1) Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records including,
4 but not limited to, failing to document whether controlled substances had been
5 administered and/or dispensed to patient R.G.; failing to document the reasons
6 why controlled substances had been prescribed to patient R.G.; failing to document
7 why the dosages of controlled substances prescribed to patient R.G. were adjusted;
8 and rarely documenting any history or physical examination findings, treatment
9 plan and/or periodic review during patient R.G.'s course of treatment.

10 **Patient E.H.**

11 (bb) In or around 2004, Respondent began treating patient E.H. and continued
12 seeing her as a primary care physician for approximately ten (10) years.¹²

13 (cc) Respondent treated patient E.H. for multiple conditions including, knee
14 pain, lumbar degenerative disc disease and depression.

15 (dd) Respondent regularly prescribed Percocet on a monthly basis to patient
16 E.H. due to chronic pain.

17 (ee) In or around November 2012, Respondent increased patient E.H.'s
18 prescription quantity of Percocet from one (100) hundred tablets to one hundred
19 fifty (150) tablets, but did not document the reason or reasons for increasing the
20 quantity of tablets.

21 (ff) Respondent rarely documented any history or physical examination
22 findings in patient E.H.'s progress notes.

23 (gg) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately ten (10)
24 years, patient E.H.'s medical records do not contain a clear medical indication
25 documented by Respondent for the use of controlled substances to treat patient
26 E.H.'s pain.

27 ¹² Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Second
28 Amended Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for
disciplinary action.

1 (hh) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately ten (10)
2 years, patient E.H.'s medical records contain only one (1) pain assessment
3 progress note documenting some assessment of the course of treatment she was
4 receiving from Respondent.

5 (ii) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
6 patient E.H. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

7 (1) Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records including,
8 but not limited to, failing to document whether controlled substances had been
9 administered and/or dispensed to patient E.H.; failing to document the reasons why
10 controlled substances had been prescribed to patient E.H.; failing to document why
11 the dosages of controlled substances prescribed to patient E.H. were adjusted; and
12 rarely documenting any history or physical examination findings, treatment plan
13 and/or periodic review during patient E.H.'s course of treatment.

14 **Patient C.T.**

15 (ij) In or around 2005, Respondent began treating patient C.T. and
16 continued seeing him as a primary care physician for approximately nine (9)
17 years.¹³ Patient C.T.'s progress notes and medical records prior to 2010 were
18 accidentally destroyed by Respondent's office.

19 (kk) Respondent treated patient C.T. for multiple conditions including,
20 obesity, diabetes mellitus and pain management. Respondent had suffered a crush
21 injury which resulted in a leg amputation and had left him confined to a wheel chair.

22 (ll) In or around February 2010, Respondent was prescribing Percocet 5-325
23 mg tablets to patient C.T. for pain management. However, according to prescription
24 records, the Percocet dosage was later increased to 10-325 mg tablets, but with no
25 corresponding documentation in patient C.T.'s progress notes explaining the reason

26
27 ¹³ Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Second
28 Amended Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for
disciplinary action.

1 or reasons for increasing the dosage.

2 (mm) In or around August 2012, Respondent prescribed OxyContin¹⁴ 20 mg
3 tablets to patient C.T. In or around April 2013, Respondent increased patient
4 C.T.'s OxyContin dosage to 40 mg tablets, but with no corresponding
5 documentation in the progress notes explaining the reason or reasons for
6 increasing the dosage. In or around May 2013, according to prescription records
7 Respondent increased patient C.T.'s OxyContin dosage to 80 mg tablets, and
8 again, there is no corresponding documentation in the progress notes explaining
9 the reason or reasons for increasing the dosage. Significantly, in light of factors
10 indicating that patient C.T.'s pain was not being adequately treated with escalating
11 dosages of OxyContin, Respondent never referred him to a pain management
12 specialist for further evaluation.

13 (nn) In or around June 2014, Respondent was still prescribing both Percocet
14 5-325 mg tablets and OxyContin 80 mg tablets to patient C.T.

15 (oo) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nine (9)
16 years, patient C.T.'s medical records do not contain a clear medical indication
17 documented by Respondent for the use of controlled substances.

18 (pp) Despite being a patient of Respondent's for approximately nine (9)
19 years, patient C.T.'s medical records contain only one (1) pain assessment
20 progress note documenting some assessment of the course of treatment he was
21 receiving from Respondent.

22 (qq) Regarding Respondent's care and treatment of patient C.T.'s diabetes
23 mellitus, in April 2011, and June 2011, two (2) laboratory tests were performed,
24 which looked at his hemoglobin and creatinine levels and a lipid panel was
25 performed. These tests performed in 2011 are the last laboratory tests found in
26 patient C.T.'s medical records, even though he continued to see Respondent for

27 ¹⁴ OxyContin is a brand name for oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant
28 to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
Business and Professions Code section 4022.

1 another three (3) years. Nor does there appear to be any documentation in his
2 medical records of an ophthalmology evaluation to screen for diabetic retinal disease.

3 (rr) Respondent rarely documented any history or physical examination
4 findings in patient C.T.'s progress notes.

5 (ss) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
6 patient C.T. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

7 (1) Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records including,
8 but not limited to, failing to document whether controlled substances had been
9 administered and/or dispensed to patient C.T.; failing to document the reasons why
10 controlled substances had been prescribed to patient C.T.; failing to document why
11 the dosages of controlled substances prescribed to patient C.T. were adjusted; and
12 rarely documenting any history or physical examination findings, treatment plan
13 and/or periodic review during patient C.T.'s course of treatment.

14 **Patient V.A.**

15 (tt) On or about December 6, 2012, Respondent performed surgery on
16 patient V.A. to remove a ruptured ovarian cyst.

17 (uu) On or about December 11, 2012, Respondent saw patient V.A. for a
18 post-operative office visit. Patient V.A. complained of pain and Respondent
19 prescribed her Demerol, a controlled pain medication. Respondent failed to
20 perform an adequate medical history and physical examination, as well as
21 document informed consent prior to issuing a controlled prescription for opioids.
22 Three (3) days later, Respondent prescribed the patient a second controlled pain
23 medication, Roxicodone,¹⁵ due to her complaints of persistent pain. Again,
24 Respondent failed to obtain a history, perform a physical exam, and document
25 informed consent before issuing this controlled prescription for opioids.

26
27 ¹⁵ Roxicodone is a brand name for oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant
28 to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
Business and Professions Code section 4022.

1 (vv) On or about January 12, 2014, Respondent charted a follow-up visit
2 with patient V.A. and documented that her pain medication, Demerol, was not
3 working. Respondent refilled the patient's Roxicodone prescription and added
4 naproxen and MS Contin.¹⁶ Again, Respondent failed to obtain a history,
5 perform a physical exam, and document informed consent before issuing this
6 controlled prescription for opioids.

7 (ww) In or around January 2013, patient V.A., who was admitted into a
8 hospital for unspecified care, provided a polysubstance abuse history to the
9 medical provider which had included, opioids, methamphetamine, and marijuana.

10 (xx) In or around February 2013, Respondent, with full knowledge of patient
11 V.A.'s polysubstance abuse history, refilled her prescription for Roxicodone and
12 also started her on Butrans, an opioid delivered via transdermal patch. Again,
13 Respondent failed to obtain a history, perform a physical exam, and document
14 informed consent before issuing this controlled prescription for opioids.

15 (yy) Respondent maintained patient V.A. on controlled pain medications for
16 over the next two (2) years, up to in or around April 2015. During this period of
17 time, Respondent never obtained a history, performed a physical exam, and/or
18 documented informed consent before issuing these controlled prescriptions for
19 opioids. During this same period of time, Respondent, despite the lack of
20 improvement in this patient's pain, never documented a review of the course of
21 pain treatment and/or considered changes in therapy other than to increase the
22 quantity of pain medications already prescribed to the patient. Lastly, during this
23 same period of time, Respondent never referred patient V.A. to a pain management
24 specialist, ordered a drug screen, and/or ran a Controlled Substance Utilization
25

26 ¹⁶ MS Contin a brand name for morphine, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
27 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
28 Business and Professions Code section 4022. Respondent, in a narrative drafted on or about
January 12, 2014, documented that he had prescribed morphine to patient V.A.

1 Review and Evaluation System (CURES)¹⁷ report to determine if she was using or
2 abusing her controlled prescriptions.

3 (zz) On or about April 20, 2017, Respondent was interviewed at the
4 California Medical Board's San Diego District Office, with his attorney present,
5 regarding the care and treatment he had provided to patient V.A. During the
6 subject interview, Respondent was asked about the patient's persistent pain and
7 why he had continued to prescribe her opioids, to which he replied "[I]n
8 desperation I would refill her medications somehow just to get rid of her."

9 (aaa) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
10 patient V.A. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

11 (1) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient V.A.'s pain and
12 treatment status; and

13 (2) Respondent, with full knowledge of patient V.A.'s polysubstance abuse
14 history, increased the prescription quantity and number of different controlled
15 prescriptions issued to her.

16 **Patient T.D.**

17 (bbb) On or about September 14, 2015, Respondent performed a second
18 trimester abortion on patient T.D. The procedure was performed at an abortion
19 clinic, Family Planning Associates (FPA), where Respondent had worked
20 performing abortions. Regarding the procedure, FPA's post-operative note
21 indicated that all "products of conception" had been observed and accounted for,
22 and that the patient had tolerated the procedure well. However, during the
23

24 ¹⁷ The Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) is a
25 program operated by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist health care practitioners
26 in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing of controlled substances, and law enforcement
27 and regulatory agencies in their efforts to control diversion and abuse of controlled substances.
28 (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165.) California law requires dispensing pharmacies to report to the
DOJ the dispensing of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances as soon as reasonably
possible after the prescriptions are filled. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (d).) It is
important to note that the history of controlled substances dispensed to a specific patient based on
the data contained in CURES is available to a health care practitioner who is treating that patient.
(Health & Saf. Code, § 11165.1, subd. (a).)

1 procedure itself, the patient had suffered significant blood loss of approximately
2 2000 ml and had to be treated with a medication combination of tocolytics to stop
3 the hemorrhaging. In fact, Respondent documented that the patient had suffered
4 significant hemorrhaging during the procedure. However, despite a loss of
5 approximately 2000 ml of blood during the surgical abortion, Respondent believed
6 patient T.D. was stable enough to be moved into a recovery room at FPA.
7 Initially, the patient's condition was documented as stable. However, Respondent
8 was soon notified that excessive bleeding had begun and the patient was then
9 returned to an operating room at FPA and a Foley catheter balloon was used to
10 tamponade the uterine cavity.

11 (ccc) Patient T.D.'s family called 911 and an ambulance arrived to transfer
12 her from FPA to Scripps La Jolla Hospital (Scripps) emergency room. Patient
13 T.D. arrived at Scripps in hemorrhagic shock. She was later stabilized and then
14 taken to an operating room where she underwent a supercervical hysterectomy and
15 left salpingo-oophorectomy for uterine perforation, and injury to the left uterine
16 vessels and the left adnexal vessels in the retroperitoneal space. Significantly, a
17 pathology report later documented that "products of conception" were still in
18 patient T.D.'s uterus.

19 (ddd) Dr. A.S. was the physician who had handled patient T.D.'s case when
20 she first arrived to the Emergency Room at Scripps. Dr. A.S. later informed
21 Medical Board investigators that Respondent had never contacted him to provide
22 any information about patient T.D.'s abortion procedure and/or the complications
23 she had experienced during and after the procedure at FPA.¹⁸ In fact, Respondent
24 failed to document that he had ever contacted Dr. A.S. to follow up on his patient's
25 condition following her transfer in an ambulance under emergent conditions.

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28 ¹⁸ Dr. A.S. indicated that the only information that he received about the procedure came from the patient's family, and not Respondent and/or FPA.

1 (eee) On or about January 21, 2016, Respondent saw patient T.D. at his
2 office. She was complaining of "pain" and "hot flashes." Respondent, without
3 performing a medical examination and/or obtaining and documenting informed
4 consent, prescribed patient T.D. one hundred forty (140) tablets of narcotics and
5 ninety (90) tablets of Lexapro. On or about the following day, Respondent mailed
6 a letter to patient T.D. indicating that he was refusing to care for her in the future,
7 and that she needed to see the surgeon who did her hysterectomy for ongoing care.

8 (fff) Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
9 patient T.D. which included, but was not limited to, the following:

10 (1) Respondent failed to recognize and react to the severity of patient T.D.'s
11 emergent condition;

12 (2) Respondent failed to seek tertiary care for patient T.D. in a timely
13 manner given her emergent condition;

14 (3) Respondent failed to adequately and correctly document the procedure
15 and related events that transpired on or about September 14, 2015; and

16 (4) Respondent failed to communicate with patient T.D. the details of her
17 procedure and the serious complications that occurred afterwards; rather, he just
18 prescribed her controlled pain medications, without performing a medical
19 examination and/or obtaining informed consent, and simply discharged her from
20 his practice.

21 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

22 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

23 11. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
24 No. G23945 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2234,
25 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care
26 and treatment of patients J.R., K.J., R.G., E.H., C.T., V.A., and T.D., as more particularly alleged
27 hereinafter:

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1 **Patient J.R.**

2 (a) Paragraphs 10(a) through 10(i), above, are incorporated by reference
3 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

4 (b) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
5 of patient J.R., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

6 (1) Respondent failed to properly document a satisfactory history and
7 physical examination including, failing to clearly document a recognized medical
8 indication for the use of controlled substances in treating patient J.R.'s chronic pain;

9 (2) Respondent failed to properly document a treatment plan including,
10 failing to develop and record a treatment plan for the use of controlled substances
11 in treating patient J.R.'s chronic pain;

12 (3) Respondent used a "standard dose" of medications when treating patient
13 J.R.'s chronic pain with controlled substances rather than individualizing
14 pharmacological therapy to meet her medical needs; and

15 (4) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient J.R.'s pain and
16 treatment status.

17 **Patient K.J.**

18 (c) Paragraphs 10(j) through 10(s), above, are incorporated by reference
19 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

20 (d) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
21 of patient K.J., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

22 (1) Respondent failed to properly document a satisfactory history and
23 physical examination including, failing to clearly document a recognized medical
24 indication for the use of controlled substances in treating patient K.J.'s chronic pain;

25 (2) Respondent failed to properly document a treatment plan including,
26 failing to develop and record a treatment plan for the use of controlled substances
27 in treating patient K.J.'s chronic pain;

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1 (3) Respondent used a "standard dose" of medications when treating patient
2 K.J.'s chronic pain with controlled substances rather than individualizing
3 pharmacological therapy to meet her medical needs;

4 (4) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient K.J.'s pain and
5 treatment status;

6 (5) Respondent failed to adjust Patient K.J.'s medications and/or make a
7 referral to a pain management specialist in light of the concern over her "overuse
8 of pain medications"; and

9 (6) Respondent failed to adequately work up and manage patient K.J.'s
10 severe hypertension.

11 **Patient R.G.**

12 (e) Paragraphs 10(t) through 10(aa), above, are incorporated by reference
13 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

14 (f) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
15 of patient R.G., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

16 (1) Respondent failed to properly document a satisfactory history and physical
17 examination including, failing to clearly document a recognized medical indication
18 for the use of controlled substances in treating patient R.G.'s chronic pain;

19 (2) Respondent failed to properly document a treatment plan including,
20 failing to develop and record a treatment plan for the use of controlled substances
21 in treating patient R.G.'s chronic pain;

22 (3) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient R.G.'s pain and
23 treatment status.

24 **Patient E.H.**

25 (g) Paragraphs 10(bb) through 10(ii), above, are incorporated by reference
26 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

27 (h) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
28 of patient E.H., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

1 (1) Respondent failed to properly document a satisfactory history and physical
2 examination including, failing to clearly document a recognized medical indication
3 for the use of controlled substances in treating patient E.H.'s chronic pain;

4 (2) Respondent failed to properly document a treatment plan including,
5 failing to develop and record a treatment plan for the use of controlled substances
6 in treating patient E.H.'s chronic pain; and

7 (3) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient E.H.'s pain and
8 treatment status.

9 **Patient C.T.**

10 (i) Paragraphs 10(jj) through 10(ss), above, are incorporated by reference
11 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

12 (j) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
13 of patient C.T., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

14 (1) Respondent failed to properly document a satisfactory history and
15 physical examination including, failing to clearly document a recognized
16 medical indication for the use of controlled substances in treating patient C.T.'s
17 chronic pain;

18 (2) Respondent failed to properly document a treatment plan including,
19 failing to develop and record a treatment plan for the use of controlled substances
20 in treating patient C.T.'s chronic pain;

21 (3) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient C.T.'s pain and
22 treatment status;

23 (4) Respondent failed to make a referral to a pain management specialist; and

24 (5) Respondent failed to adequately monitor patient C.T.'s diabetes
25 mellitus.

26 **Patient V.A.**

27 (k) Paragraphs 10(tt) through 10(aaa), above, are incorporated by reference
28 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

1 (l) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
2 of patient V.A., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

3 (1) Respondent failed to perform periodic review of patient V.A.'s pain and
4 treatment status;

5 (2) Respondent, with full knowledge of patient V.A.'s polysubstance abuse
6 history, increased the prescription quantity and number of different controlled
7 prescriptions issued to her;

8 (3) Respondent failed to obtain a substance abuse history before prescribing
9 controlled medications to patient V.A.;

10 (4) Respondent failed to obtain and document informed consent; and

11 (5) Respondent failed to refer patient V.A., with her complex pain issues
12 outside of Respondent's scope of practice, to a pain management specialist.

13 **Patient T.D.**

14 (m) Paragraphs 10(bbb) through 10(fff), above, are incorporated by
15 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

16 (n) Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment
17 of patient T.D., which included, but was not limited to, the following:

18 (1) Respondent failed to recognize and react to the severity of patient T.D.'s
19 emergent condition;

20 (2) Respondent failed to seek tertiary care for patient T.D. in a timely
21 manner given her emergent condition;

22 (3) Respondent failed to adequately and correctly document the procedure
23 and related events that transpired on or about September 14, 2015; and

24 (4) Respondent failed to communicate with patient T.D. the details of her
25 procedure and the serious complications that occurred afterwards; rather, he just
26 prescribed her controlled pain medications, without performing a medical
27 examination and/or obtaining informed consent, and simply discharged her from
28 his practice.

1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Prescribing Without an Appropriate Prior Examination)**

3 12. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
4 G23945 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in sections 2242 and
5 4022, of the Code, in that Respondent prescribed, dispensed, or furnished dangerous drugs to
6 patients J.R., K.J., R.G., E.H., C.T., V.A., and T.D., without an appropriate prior examination and
7 a medical indication, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

8 13. Paragraphs 10 and 11, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as
9 if fully set forth herein.

10 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

11 **(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records)**

12 14. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
13 G23945 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2266, of the
14 Code, in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in connection with his
15 care and treatment of patients J.R., K.J., R.G., E.H., C.T., V.A., and T.D., as more particularly
16 alleged hereinafter:

17 15. Paragraphs 10 and 11, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if
18 fully set forth herein.

19 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 **(Unprofessional Conduct)**

21 16. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
22 G23945 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that Respondent has
23 engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct
24 which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which
25 demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

26 17. Paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
27 realleged as if fully set forth herein.

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1 18. On or about June 11, 2016, an incident was captured on video¹⁹ involving Respondent
2 and another individual (M.Z.) in front of a clinic, wherein Respondent engaged in outrageous
3 conduct and made physically threatening gestures towards M.Z. The clinic, Family Planning
4 Associates, is an abortion clinic located in San Diego where Respondent was working on that
5 date.²⁰ M.Z. was present outside of the clinic that day to read from the Bible and essentially
6 protest abortion. The video showed Respondent exiting the clinic's front entrance with a large
7 pair of scissors in his hand and walking directly over to M.Z., who was standing approximately
8 ten to twelve (10 to 12) feet away from the clinic's front entrance with his back towards the
9 second floor railing. Respondent quickly approached M.Z. after M.Z. had stated that he needed
10 to repent for "murdering babies." Respondent aggressively pressed his face to within inches of
11 M.Z.'s face and angrily replied "Why?" During the exchange, Respondent obnoxiously exhaled
12 several times directly into M.Z.'s face while speaking in a guttural tone of voice. When asked if
13 he did that to babies, Respondent replied in a guttural tone "Yeah, I love it!" At one point,
14 Respondent raised the large pair of scissors still in his hands to chest level and aggressively
15 leaned his body forward causing physical contact with M.Z., who then turned away and took a
16 step back towards the railing to avoid Respondent. Respondent, still holding the scissors only
17 inches away from M.Z., continued making guttural sounds and aggressively exhaling right into
18 M.Z.'s face. When told about all of the babies that he had "killed" Respondent continued to
19 repeat "I love it, I love it!" in a guttural tone of voice; remarkably, he said this and still continued
20 his outrageous conduct even as patients, including a young child, are seen entering the clinic's
21 front entrance.

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26 ¹⁹ The video clip is approximately one (1) minute in duration.

27 ²⁰ Although the exact time of day when the incident occurred is uncertain, it appeared to
28 have occurred during the clinic's regular business hours because the video footage showed
patients entering the clinic in broad daylight.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

19. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about May 30, 2000, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Robert John Santella, M.D.*, Case No. 10-1996-61463, the Medical Board of California (Board) issued a decision revoking Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945, staying that revocation, and placing Respondent on probation for four (4) years on various terms and conditions. The Board imposed discipline on Respondent in this matter based on findings that Respondent admitted he failed to maintain adequate records as alleged in paragraph eight (8) of the Accusation. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

20. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about December 10, 1983, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Robert Santella, M.D.*, Case No. 07-1981-702851, the Board of Medical Quality Assurance of California (Board) issued a decision revoking Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945, staying that revocation, and placing Respondent on probation for five (5) years on various terms and conditions. The Board imposed discipline on Respondent in this matter based on findings that Respondent had committed acts of gross negligence and/or incompetence. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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1 PRAYER

2 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
3 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 4 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G23945, issued to
5 Respondent Robert John Santella, M.D.;
- 6 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Robert John Santella,
7 M.D.'s, authority to supervise physician assistants and/or advanced practice nurses;
- 8 3. Ordering Respondent Robert John Santella, M.D., to pay the Medical Board of
9 California the costs of probation monitoring, if placed on probation; and
- 10 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

11
12 DATED: July 17, 2017


KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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