

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

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

Chrystal Singleton, M.D.

Case No. 800-2015-011451

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A65522**

Respondent

DECISION

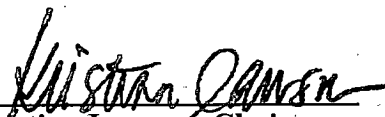
The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on January 12, 2018.

IT IS SO ORDERED December 15, 2017.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By: _____


**Kristina Lawson, Chair
Panel B**

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 STEVE DIEHL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 235250
California Department of Justice
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
Fresno, CA 93721
6 Telephone: (559) 477-1626
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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-011451

12 **Chrystal Singleton, M.D.**
3410 McCall Ave. # 115
13 Selma, CA 93662

OAH No. 2017031431

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**
15 **65522**

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

16 Respondent.

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

20 PARTIES

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

25 2. Respondent Chrystal Singleton, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding
26 by attorney Nicholas D. Jurkowitz, Esq., whose address is: 1990 S. Bundy Drive, Suite 777
27 Los Angeles, CA 90025.

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1 3. On or about June 5, 1998, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
2 A 65522 to Chrystal Singleton, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
3 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-
4 2015-011451, and will expire on May 31, 2018, unless renewed.

5 JURISDICTION

6 4. Accusation No. 800-2015-011451 was filed before the Board, and is currently
7 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were
8 properly served on Respondent on March 2, 2017. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense
9 contesting the Accusation.

10 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2015-011451 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated
11 herein by reference.

12 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

13 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2015-011451. Respondent has also carefully read,
15 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and
16 Disciplinary Order.

17 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
18 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine
19 the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right
20 to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of
21 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other
22 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

23 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
24 every right set forth above.

25 CULPABILITY

26 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could
27 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation
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1 No. 800-2015-011451 and that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's
2 Certificate to disciplinary action.

3 10. Respondent agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
4 discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the
5 Disciplinary Order below.

6 CONTINGENCY

7 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.
8 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical
9 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and
10 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the
11 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek
12 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
13 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
14 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal
15 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
16 considered this matter.

17 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
18 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
19 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

20 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
21 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following
22 Disciplinary Order:

23 DISCIPLINARY ORDER

24 A. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

25 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Chrystal Singleton, M.D., Physician's and
26 Surgeon's Certificate No. A 65522, shall be and is hereby Publicly Reprimanded pursuant to
27 California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This Public
28 Reprimand is issued in connection with Respondent's care and treatment of one patient, as set

1 forth in Accusation No. 800-2015-011451, and is as follows:

2 Respondent Chrystal Singleton, M.D., delivered patient A.Y.'s baby on or about October
3 4, 2015. Respondent failed to document a complete history and physical examination upon the
4 patient's admission to the hospital. Despite A.Y. being in labor for more than 24 hours,
5 interventions being made, anesthesia being administered, and periods of non-reassuring fetal heart
6 tracing, Respondent failed to document contemporaneous progress notes or annotations on the
7 fetal heart tracing. These failures have been determined to constitute deficient recordkeeping
8 within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 2266.

9 **B. MEDICAL RECORDKEEPING COURSE**

10 Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a
11 course in medical record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent
12 shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved
13 course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete
14 the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial
15 enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within
16 one (1) year of enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense
17 and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of
18 licensure.

19 A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
20 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
21 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have
22 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of
23 this Decision.

24 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
25 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
26 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

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1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Chrystal Singleton, M.D. the terms and
2 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
3 I approve its form and content.

4 DATED: 9-12-2017

5 
6 NICHOLAS D. TURKOWITZ, ESQ.

7 *Attorney for Respondent*

8
9 ENDORSEMENT

10 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
11 submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

12 Dated: 9/13/17

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 XAVIER BECERRA
15 Attorney General of California
16 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
17 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

18 
19 STEVE DIEHL
20 Deputy Attorney General
21 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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EXHIBIT A

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
STEVE DIEHL
3 Deputy Attorney General
State Bar No. 235250
4 California Department of Justice
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
5 Fresno, CA 93721
Telephone: (559) 477-1626
6 Facsimile: (559) 445-5106
Attorneys for Complainant
7

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO March 2 2017
BY Robert S. Frazier ANALYST

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

10 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-011451

11 **Chrystal Joy Leona Singleton, M.D.**
12 3410 McCall Ave. # 115
13 Selma, CA 93662

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. A 65522,

15 Respondent.

16
17 Complainant alleges:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official
20 capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer
21 Affairs (Board).

22 2. On or about June 5, 1998, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number A 65522 to Chrystal Joy Leona Singleton, M.D. (Respondent). The
24 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the
25 charges brought herein and will expire on May 31, 2018, unless renewed.

26 **JURISDICTION**

27 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
28 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

1 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

2 “(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical
3 Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default
4 has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary
5 action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

6 “(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

7 “(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon
8 order of the board.

9 “(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon
10 order of the board.

11 “(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a
12 requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.

13 “(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as
14 the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

15 “(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical
16 review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education
17 activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and
18 successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by
19 existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to
20 Section 803.1.”

21 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

25 “(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the
26 violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

27 “(b) Gross negligence.

1 “(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or
2 omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from
3 the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.

4 “(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate
5 for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.

6 “(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that
7 constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a
8 reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the
9 applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the
10 standard of care.

11 “(d) Incompetence.

12 “(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially
13 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

14 “(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

15 “(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting
16 the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not
17 apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the
18 proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

19 “(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and
20 participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder
21 who is the subject of an investigation by the board.”

22 6. Section 2266 of the Code states: “The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain
23 adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes
24 unprofessional conduct.”

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence)**

3 7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (b) in
4 that she engaged in act(s) of gross negligence. The circumstances are as follows:

5 8. On or about October 2, 2015, patient A.Y.¹ was admitted at Adventist Medical Center
6 in Reedley, California, for the delivery of a baby. The patient was under Respondent's care
7 during pregnancy and delivery. A.Y. had a complex medical history, including hypertension,
8 fibromyalgia, chronic back pain and degenerative disc disease, hypothyroidism, depression,
9 anxiety, and herpes type 1 and 2. During prenatal care, the patient developed worsening
10 hypertension, with systolic blood pressure over 140, and proteinuria, with 420 mg protein in 24
11 hour urine. The patient thus met the criteria for preeclampsia without severe features, and was
12 scheduled for induction a few days earlier than the standard of 38 weeks for a preexisting
13 hypertension complicated pregnancy.

14 9. The patient was started on her induction upon admission to the hospital. She received
15 an early epidural for pain control. Respondent broke the bag of water on October 3, 2015, at 9:00
16 a.m. The patient had minimal changes to her labor for nearly 24 hours thereafter. At 6:00 a.m. on
17 October 4, 2015, she had dilated to 4 cm and a pressure catheter was placed. At 8:00 a.m. that
18 day she had dilated to 5 cm, with fetal tachycardia and evidence of significant deceleration that
19 resolved. Antibiotic ampicillin was started. At 9:00 a.m., the patient had dilated to 9 cm. The
20 fetal heart tracing showed signs of concerning repetitive late deceleration. No intervention or
21 consideration of caesarian delivery was noted. At approximately 10:45 a.m., the patient had
22 dilated to 10 cm and began to push. Considerable concerning severe deceleration was noted for
23 close to two hours. No intervention was noted until 12:50 p.m., when the baby was delivered via
24 vacuum assistance at 1:05 p.m. on October 4, 2015.

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26 _____
27 ¹ Initials are used to protect patient privacy.
28

10. Upon delivery, the baby's APGAR score was 2 at 1 minute, 1 at 5 minutes, and 3 at 20 minutes. The baby required immediate resuscitation and was eventually intubated and transferred to a higher level of care. Lab reports suggest that the baby was acidotic and in stress, both prior to and at the time of delivery.

11. The standard of care in management of a patient in labor is to continually assess the well-being of the mother and fetus in utero. Unless the delivery is rapid or precipitous, progress notes or annotations on the fetal heart tracing should document the course of labor.

12. Respondent's practice is to annotate the labor course exclusively by dictating a delivery note after the delivery. Respondent failed to document a progress note or annotate the fetal heart tracing prior to the delivery, despite patient A.Y. being in labor for more than 24 hours, interventions being made, anesthesia being administered, and periods of non-reassuring fetal heart tracing. Respondent's practice of only writing a delivery note well after the admission, when there were concerns about fetal wellbeing during labor, represents an extreme departure from the standard of care.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (c), in that she engaged in repeated negligent acts. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 8 through 12, above, which are incorporated here by reference as if fully set forth. Additional circumstances are as follows:

14. The standard of care is to have documentation of a complete history and physical examination available at the time of admission for delivery of a baby. This includes an indication for admission, pregnancy history, physical examination and assessment and plan. Criteria for establishing the gestational age and specific prenatal labs are required. Such charts may be sent to the hospital at an established gestation point, or at the time of an unexpected admission.

15. Respondent dictated a history and physical on the date of admission of patient A.Y. Additionally, Respondent provided a summary sheet narrative of the patient care that was dictated on September 17, 2014. These documents lacked clinically pertinent labs, imaging, vital signs,

weight changes, and documentation of Respondent's management of the patient's complex medical history. Respondent failed to provide a baseline blood pressure or date specific blood pressures for the prenatal course. The laboratory report provided lacks a date or gestational age. HIV testing was not documented. Respondent's summary of medication failed to include the levothyroxine, buprenorphine, sertraline, or valacyclovir the patient was taking. Respondent's admission history and physical failed to include the levothyroxine or buprenorphine. Respondent failed to document the dosage of valacyclovir the patient was taking, and failed to document whether the patient was having any symptoms associated with herpes outbreak. Respondent failed to document a review of systems to assess signs and symptoms common in preeclampsia as well as overall wellbeing. Respondent's assessment and plan failed to address the patient's multiple comorbid conditions, including obesity, use of chronic pain medication, hypothyroidism, and herpes. These failures represent a departure from the standard of care.

16. The standard of care is to consider appropriate interventions when there are concerning findings on a fetal heart tracing. Such interventions may include proceeding to the most expedient mode of delivery depending on the clinical situation.

17. The fetal heart tracing showed concerning findings at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on October 4, 2015. Respondent's failure to proceed to expedited delivery at either of those times constitute departures from the standard of care.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Recordkeeping)

18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 in that she engaged in inaccurate and inadequate recordkeeping. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 8 through 17, above, which are incorporated here by reference as if fully set forth.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 65522, issued to Chrystal Singleton, M.D.;

1 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Chrystal Singleton, M.D.'s authority to
2 supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;

3 3. Ordering Chrystal Singleton, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs
4 of probation monitoring; and

5 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

6
7 DATED: March 2, 2017


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

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