

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

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

James Peter Dickens, M.D.

**Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No A 55172**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-030990

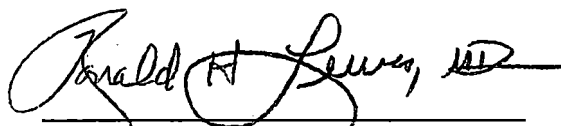
DECISION

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 June 18, 2021

IT IS SO ORDERED May 20, 2021

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVEN D. MUNI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JANNSEN TAN
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 237826
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7549
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:
13 **JAMES PETER DICKENS, M.D.**
14 **701 Howe Ave.**
15 **Bldg. H Ste. 50**
Sacramento, CA 95825
16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**
55172
17
18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-030990

OAH No. 2020070833

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
25 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
26 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Jannsen Tan, Deputy
27 Attorney General.

28 *///*

1 **CULPABILITY**

2 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
3 No. 800-2017-030990, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his
4 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

5 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case
6 or factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right
7 to contest those charges.

8 11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could
9 establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-
10 2017-030990, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has
11 thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. A 55172 to disciplinary action.

12 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
13 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the
14 Disciplinary Order below.

15 **RESERVATION**

16 13. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this
17 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other
18 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or
19 civil proceeding.

20 **CONTINGENCY**

21 14. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.
22 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical
23 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and
24 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the
25 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek
26 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
27 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
28 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal

1 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
2 considered this matter.

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

6 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
7 the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and
8 enter the following Disciplinary Order:

9 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

10 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 55172 issued
11 to Respondent James Peter Dickens, M.D. shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant
12 to California Business and Professions Code, section 2227, subdivision (a) (4.) This public
13 reprimand, which is issued in connection Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A and B, as
14 set forth in Accusation No. 800-2017-030990, is as follows:

15 "You failed to supervise your Physician Assistant appropriately, in that he was able to
16 prescribe to patients without your knowledge."

17 A. **EDUCATION COURSE** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this
18 Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval, educational
19 program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours, in addition to the 25 hours required
20 for license renewal. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any
21 areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational
22 program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the
23 Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the
24 completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
25 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Within 12 months of the effective date of this Decision,
26 Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in
27 satisfaction of this condition.

28 Failure to successfully complete and provide proof of attendance to the Board or its

1 designee of the educational program(s) or course(s) within 12 months of the effective date of this
2 Decision, unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of time, shall
3 constitute general unprofessional conduct and may serve as the grounds for further disciplinary
4 action.

5 **B. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE**

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

15 A prescribing practices course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
16 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
17 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have
18 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of
19 this Decision.

20 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
21 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
22 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later. Failure to provide
23 proof of successful completion to the Board or its designee within twelve (12) months of the
24 effective date of this Decision, unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension
25 of that time, shall constitute general unprofessional conduct and may serve as the grounds for
26 further disciplinary action.

27 **C. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE** Within 60 calendar days of the
28 effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping

1 approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course
2 provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem
3 pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of
4 the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall
5 successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The
6 medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the
7 Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure and the coursework
8 requirements as set forth in Condition B of this stipulated settlement.

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

14 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
15 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
16 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

17 Failure to provide proof of successful completion to the Board or its designee within
18 twelve (12) months of the effective date of this Decision, unless the Board or its designee agrees
19 in writing to an extension of that time, shall constitute general unprofessional conduct and may
20 serve as the grounds for further disciplinary action.

21 22 ACCEPTANCE

23 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
24 discussed it with my attorney, Nicole D. Hendrickson. I understand the stipulation and the effect
25 it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement
26 and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
27 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

1 DATED:

3/15/21

JAMES PETER DICKENS, M.D.
Respondent

3 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent James Peter Dickens, M.D. the terms and
4 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
5 I approve its form and content.

6 DATED:

03/15/2021

Nicole Hendrickson
NICOLE D. HENDRICKSON
Attorney for Respondent

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:

4/7/2021

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
STEVEN D. MUNI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Jay L. Tan

JANNSEN TAN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

22 SA2019301091
23 34907333.docx

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-030990

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
STEVEN D. MUNI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
JANNSEN TAN
Deputy Attorney General
State Bar No. 237826
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Telephone: (916) 210-7549
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247
Attorneys for Complainant

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO March 20 20
BY M. James ANALYST

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

James Peter Dickens, M.D.
Bldg. H Ste. 50
701 Howe Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95825

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 55172,

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-030990
ACCUSATION

PARTIES

- Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
- On or about November 8, 1995, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 55172 to James Peter Dickens, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2021, unless renewed.

1 **JURISDICTION**

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

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

28 5. Section 725 of the Code states:

(a) Repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or
administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of
diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or
treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is
unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, psychologist,
physical therapist, chiropractor, optometrist, speech-language pathologist, or
audiologist.

(b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or
administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished
by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred
dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than
180 days, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

1 (c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing,
2 dispensing, or administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances
shall not be subject to disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.

3 (d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to
4 this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5.

5 6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

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

11 (b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

23 (d) Incompetence.

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

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

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

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

///

///

1 7. Section 2241 of the Code states:

2 (a) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription
3 drugs, including prescription controlled substances, to an addict under his or her
4 treatment for a purpose other than maintenance on, or detoxification from,
5 prescription drugs or controlled substances.

6 (b) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription
7 drugs or prescription controlled substances to an addict for purposes of maintenance
8 on, or detoxification from, prescription drugs or controlled substances only as set
9 forth in subdivision (c) or in Sections 11215, 11217, 11217.5, 11218, 11219, and
10 11220 of the Health and Safety Code. Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize a
11 physician and surgeon to prescribe, dispense, or administer dangerous drugs or
12 controlled substances to a person he or she knows or reasonably believes is using or
13 will use the drugs or substances for a nonmedical purpose.

14 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), prescription drugs or controlled substances
15 may also be administered or applied by a physician and surgeon, or by a registered
16 nurse acting under his or her instruction and supervision, under the following
17 circumstances:

18 (1) Emergency treatment of a patient whose addiction is complicated by the
19 presence of incurable disease, acute accident, illness, or injury, or the infirmities
20 attendant upon age.

21 (2) Treatment of addicts in state-licensed institutions where the patient is kept
22 under restraint and control, or in city or county jails or state prisons.

23 (3) Treatment of addicts as provided for by Section 11217.5 of the Health and
24 Safety Code.

25 (d)(1) For purposes of this section and Section 2241.5, addict means a person
26 whose actions are characterized by craving in combination with one or more of the
27 following:

28 (A) Impaired control over drug use.

 (B) Compulsive use.

 (C) Continued use despite harm.

 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person whose drug-seeking behavior is
primarily due to the inadequate control of pain is not an addict within the meaning of
this section or Section 2241.5.

 8. Section 2242 of the Code states:

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

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

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

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

6 (A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed
7 vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient's records.

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

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

12 (4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health
13 and Safety Code.

14 9. Section 2264 of the Code states:

15 The employing, directly or indirectly, the aiding, or the abetting of any
16 unlicensed person or any suspended, revoked, or unlicensed practitioner to engage in
the practice of medicine or any other mode of treating the sick or afflicted which
17 requires a license to practice constitutes unprofessional conduct.

18 10. Section 2261 of the Code states:

19 Knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document directly or
20 indirectly related to the practice of medicine or podiatry which falsely represents the
existence or nonexistence of a state of facts, constitutes unprofessional conduct.

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

24 12. Section 3502 of the Code states:

25 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a physician assistant may perform those
26 medical services as set forth by the regulations adopted under this chapter when the
services are rendered under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon who
27 is not subject to a disciplinary condition imposed by the Medical Board of California
prohibiting that supervision or prohibiting the employment of a physician assistant.
28 The medical record, for each episode of care for a patient, shall identify the physician
and surgeon who is responsible for the supervision of the physician assistant.

1 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, a physician assistant performing medical
2 services under the supervision of a physician and surgeon may assist a doctor of
3 podiatric medicine who is a partner, shareholder, or employee in the same medical
4 group as the supervising physician and surgeon. A physician assistant who assists a
5 doctor of podiatric medicine pursuant to this subdivision shall do so only according to
6 patient specific orders from the supervising physician and surgeon.

7 (2) The supervising physician and surgeon shall be physically available to the
8 physician assistant for consultation when such assistance is rendered. A physician
9 assistant assisting a doctor of podiatric medicine shall be limited to performing those
10 duties included within the scope of practice of a doctor of podiatric medicine.

11 (c) (1) A physician assistant and his or her supervising physician and surgeon
12 shall establish written guidelines for the adequate supervision of the physician
13 assistant. This requirement may be satisfied by the supervising physician and
14 surgeon adopting protocols for some or all of the tasks performed by the physician
15 assistant. The protocols adopted pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the
16 following requirements:

17 (A) A protocol governing diagnosis and management shall, at a minimum,
18 include the presence or absence of symptoms, signs, and other data necessary to
19 establish a diagnosis or assessment, any appropriate tests or studies to order, drugs to
20 recommend to the patient, and education to be provided to the patient.

21 (B) A protocol governing procedures shall set forth the information to be
22 provided to the patient, the nature of the consent to be obtained from the patient, the
23 preparation and technique of the procedure, and the follow up care.

24 (C) Protocols shall be developed by the supervising physician and surgeon or
25 adopted from, or referenced to, texts or other sources.

26 (D) Protocols shall be signed and dated by the supervising physician and
27 surgeon and the physician assistant.

28 (2) (A) The supervising physician and surgeon shall use one or more of the
following mechanisms to ensure adequate supervision of the physician assistant
functioning under the protocols:

(i) The supervising physician and surgeon shall review, countersign, and date a
sample consisting of, at a minimum, 5 percent of the medical records of patients
treated by the physician assistant functioning under the protocols within 30 days of
the date of treatment by the physician assistant.

(ii) The supervising physician and surgeon and physician assistant shall conduct
a medical records review meeting at least once a month during at least 10 months of
the year. During any month in which a medical records review meeting occurs, the
supervising physician and surgeon and physician assistant shall review an aggregate
of at least 10 medical records of patients treated by the physician assistant functioning
under protocols. Documentation of medical records reviewed during the month shall
be jointly signed and dated by the supervising physician and surgeon and the
physician assistant.

(iii) The supervising physician and surgeon shall review a sample of at least 10
medical records per month, at least 10 months during the year, using a combination of
the countersignature mechanism described in clause (i) and the medical records

1 review meeting mechanism described in clause (ii). During each month for which a
2 sample is reviewed, at least one of the medical records in the sample shall be
3 reviewed using the mechanism described in clause (i) and at least one of the medical
4 records in the sample shall be reviewed using the mechanism described in clause (ii).

5 (B) In complying with subparagraph (A), the supervising physician and surgeon
6 shall select for review those cases that by diagnosis, problem, treatment, or procedure
7 represent, in his or her judgment, the most significant risk to the patient.

8 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Medical Board of
9 California or board may establish other alternative mechanisms for the adequate
10 supervision of the physician assistant.

11 (d) No medical services may be performed under this chapter in any of the
12 following areas:

13 (1) The determination of the refractive states of the human eye, or the fitting or
14 adaptation of lenses or frames for the aid thereof.

15 (2) The prescribing or directing the use of, or using, any optical device in
16 connection with ocular exercises, visual training, or orthoptics.

17 (3) The prescribing of contact lenses for, or the fitting or adaptation of contact
18 lenses to, the human eye.

19 (4) The practice of dentistry or dental hygiene or the work of a dental auxiliary
20 as defined in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 1600).

21 (e) This section shall not be construed in a manner that shall preclude the
22 performance of routine visual screening as defined in Section 3501.

23 13. Section 3502.1 of the Code states:

24 (a) In addition to the services authorized in the regulations adopted by the
25 Medical Board of California, and except as prohibited by Section 3502, while under
26 the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or physicians and surgeons
27 authorized by law to supervise a physician assistant, a physician assistant may
28 administer or provide medication to a patient, or transmit orally, or in writing on a
patient's record or in a drug order, an order to a person who may lawfully furnish the
medication or medical device pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

(1) A supervising physician and surgeon who delegates authority to issue a drug
order to a physician assistant may limit this authority by specifying the manner in
which the physician assistant may issue delegated prescriptions.

(2) Each supervising physician and surgeon who delegates the authority to issue
a drug order to a physician assistant shall first prepare and adopt, or adopt, a written,
practice specific, formulary and protocols that specify all criteria for the use of a
particular drug or device, and any contraindications for the selection. Protocols for
Schedule II controlled substances shall address the diagnosis of illness, injury, or
condition for which the Schedule II controlled substance is being administered,
provided or issued. The drugs listed in the protocols shall constitute the formulary and
shall include only drugs that are appropriate for use in the type of practice engaged in
by the supervising physician and surgeon. When issuing a drug order, the physician
assistant is acting on behalf of and as an agent for a supervising physician and surgeon.

1 (b) Drug order for purposes of this section, means an order for medication
2 which is dispensed to or for a patient, issued and signed by a physician assistant
3 acting as an individual practitioner within the meaning of Section 1306.02 of Title 21
4 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, (1)
5 a drug order issued pursuant to this section shall be treated in the same manner as a
6 prescription or order of the supervising physician, (2) all references to "prescription"
7 in this code and the Health and Safety Code shall include drug orders issued by
8 physician assistants pursuant to authority granted by their supervising physicians, and
9 (3) the signature of a physician assistant on a drug order shall be deemed to be the
10 signature of a prescriber for purposes of this code and the Health and Safety Code.

11 (c) A drug order for any patient cared for by the physician assistant that is
12 issued by the physician assistant shall either be based on the protocols described in
13 subdivision (a) or shall be approved by the supervising physician before it is filled or
14 carried out.

15 (1) A physician assistant shall not administer or provide a drug or issue a drug
16 order for a drug other than for a drug listed in the formulary without advance
17 approval from a supervising physician and surgeon for the particular patient. At the
18 direction and under the supervision of a physician and surgeon, a physician assistant
19 may hand to a patient of the supervising physician and surgeon a properly labeled
20 prescription drug prepackaged by a physician and surgeon, manufacturer as defined in
21 the Pharmacy Law, or a pharmacist.

22 (2) A physician assistant may not administer, provide or issue a drug order for
23 Schedule II through Schedule V controlled substances without advance approval by a
24 supervising physician and surgeon for the particular patient unless the physician
25 assistant has completed an education course that covers controlled substances and that
26 meets standards, including pharmacological content, approved by the board. The
27 education course shall be provided either by an accredited continuing education
28 provider or by an approved physician assistant training program. If the physician
assistant will administer, provide, or issue a drug order for Schedule II controlled
substances, the course shall contain a minimum of three hours exclusively on
Schedule II controlled substances. Completion of the requirements set forth in this
paragraph shall be verified and documented in the manner established by the board
prior to the physician assistant's use of a registration number issued by the United
States Drug Enforcement Administration to the physician assistant to administer,
provide, or issue a drug order to a patient for a controlled substance without advance
approval by a supervising physician and surgeon for that particular patient.

(3) Any drug order issued by a physician assistant shall be subject to a
reasonable quantitative limitation consistent with customary medical practice in the
supervising physician and surgeon's practice.

(d) A written drug order issued pursuant to subdivision (a), except a written
drug order in a patient's medical record in a health facility or medical practice, shall
contain the printed name, address, and phone number of the supervising physician
and surgeon, the printed or stamped name and license number of the physician
assistant, and the signature of the physician assistant. Further, a written drug order
for a controlled substance, except a written drug order in a patient's medical record in
a health facility or a medical practice, shall include the federal controlled substances
registration number of the physician assistant and shall otherwise comply with the
provisions of Section 11162.1 of the Health and Safety Code. Except as otherwise
required for written drug orders for controlled substances under Section 11162.1 of
the Health and Safety Code, the requirements of this subdivision may be met through

1 stamping or otherwise imprinting on the supervising physician and surgeon's
2 prescription blank to show the name, license number, and if applicable, the federal
3 controlled substances registration number of the physician assistant, and shall be
signed by the physician assistant. When using a drug order, the physician assistant is
acting on behalf of and as the agent of a supervising physician and surgeon.

4 (e) The supervising physician and surgeon shall use either of the following
5 mechanisms to ensure adequate supervision of the administration, provision, or
6 issuance by a physician assistant of a drug order to a patient for Schedule II
controlled substances:

7 (1) The medical record of any patient cared for by a physician assistant for
8 whom the physician assistant's Schedule II drug order has been issued or carried out
shall be reviewed, countersigned, and dated by a supervising physician and surgeon
within seven days.

9 (2) If the physician assistant has documentation evidencing the successful
10 completion of an education course that covers controlled substances, and that
11 controlled substance education course (A) meets the standards, including
12 pharmacological content, established in Sections 1399.610 and 1399.612 of Title 16
13 of the California Code of Regulations, and (B) is provided either by an accredited
14 continuing education provider or by an approved physician assistant training
15 program, the supervising physician and surgeon shall review, countersign, and date,
16 within seven days, a sample consisting of the medical records of at least 20 percent of
the patients cared for by the physician assistant for whom the physician assistant's
Schedule II drug order has been issued or carried out. Completion of the requirements
set forth in this paragraph shall be verified and documented in the manner established
in Section 1399.612 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Physician
assistants who have a certificate of completion of the course described in paragraph
(2) of subdivision (c) shall be deemed to have met the education course requirement
of this subdivision.

17 (f) All physician assistants who are authorized by their supervising physicians
18 to issue drug orders for controlled substances shall register with the United States
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

19 (g) The board shall consult with the Medical Board of California and report
20 during its sunset review required by Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 9147.7) of
21 Chapter 1.5 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Government Code the impacts of
22 exempting Schedule III and Schedule IV drug orders from the requirement for a
physician and surgeon to review and countersign the affected medical record of a
patient.

23 REGULATORY PROVISIONS

24 14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.545, states:

25 (a) A supervising physician shall be available in person or by electronic
26 communication at all times when the physician assistant is caring for patients.

27 (b) A supervising physician shall delegate to a physician assistant only those
28 tasks and procedures consistent with the supervising physician's specialty or usual
and customary practice and with the patient's health and condition.

1 (c) A supervising physician shall observe or review evidence of the physician
2 assistant's performance of all tasks and procedures to be delegated to the physician
assistant until assured of competency.

3 (d) The physician assistant and the supervising physician shall establish in
4 writing transport and back-up procedures for the immediate care of patients who are
5 in need of emergency care beyond the physician assistant's scope of practice for such
6 times when a supervising physician is not on the premises.

7 (e) A physician assistant and his or her supervising physician shall establish in
8 writing guidelines for the adequate supervision of the physician assistant which shall
9 include one or more of the following mechanisms:

10 (1) Examination of the patient by a supervising physician the same day as care
11 is given by the physician assistant;

12 (2) Countersignature and dating of all medical records written by the physician
13 assistant within thirty (30) days that the care was given by the physician assistant;

14 (3) The supervising physician may adopt protocols to govern the performance
15 of a physician assistant for some or all tasks. The minimum content for a protocol
16 governing diagnosis and management as referred to in this section shall include the
17 presence or absence of symptoms, signs, and other data necessary to establish a
18 diagnosis or assessment, any appropriate tests or studies to order, drugs to
19 recommend to the patient, and education to be given the patient. For protocols
20 governing procedures, the protocol shall state the information to be given the patient,
21 the nature of the consent to be obtained from the patient, the preparation and
22 technique of the procedure, and the follow-up care. Protocols shall be developed by
23 the physician, adopted from, or referenced to, texts or other sources. Protocols shall
24 be signed and dated by the supervising physician and the physician assistant. The
25 supervising physician shall review, countersign, and date a minimum of 5% sample of
26 medical records of patients treated by the physician assistant functioning under these
27 protocols within thirty (30) days. The physician shall select for review those cases
28 which by diagnosis, problem, treatment or procedure represent, in his or her
judgment, the most significant risk to the patient;

(4) Other mechanisms approved in advance by the board.

(f) The supervising physician has continuing responsibility to follow the
progress of the patient and to make sure that the physician assistant does not function
autonomously. The supervising physician shall be responsible for all medical
services provided by a physician assistant under his or her supervision.

DEFINITIONS

15. Amphetamine salts – Generic name for the drug Adderall, which is a combination
drug containing four salts of the two enantiomers of amphetamine, a Central Nervous System
(CNS) stimulant of the phenethylamine class. Adderall is used to treat attention deficit
hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy but can be used recreationally as an aphrodisiac
and euphoriant. Adderall is habit forming. Amphetamine salts are a Schedule II controlled

1 substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.12(d) and a dangerous
2 drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

3 16. Fentanyl – Generic name for the drug Duragesic. Fentanyl is a potent, synthetic
4 opioid analgesic with a rapid onset and short duration of action used for pain. The fentanyl
5 transdermal patch is used for long term chronic pain. It has an extremely high danger of abuse
6 and can lead to addiction as the medication is estimated to be 80 times more potent than morphine
7 and hundreds of more times more potent than heroin.¹ Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled
8 substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.12. Fentanyl is a
9 dangerous drug pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4022 and is a
10 Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 11055(c).

11 17. Oxycodone – Generic name for Oxycontin, Roxicodone, and Oxecta. Oxycodone has
12 a high risk for addiction and dependence. It can cause respiratory distress and death when taken
13 in high doses or when combined with other substances, especially alcohol. Oxycodone is a short
14 acting opioid analgesic used to treat moderate to severe pain. Oxycodone is a Schedule II
15 controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.12.
16 Oxycodone is a dangerous drug pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section
17 4022 and is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to California Health and Safety Code
18 section 11055(b).

19 18. Alprazolam – Generic name for the drugs Xanax and Niravam. Alprazolam is a short
20 acting benzodiazepine used to treat anxiety. Alprazolam is a Schedule IV controlled substance
21 pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14. Alprazolam is a dangerous
22 drug pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4022 and is a Schedule IV
23 controlled substance pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 11057(d).

24 19. Diazepam – Generic name for Valium. Diazepam is a long-acting member of the
25 benzodiazepine family used for the treatment of anxiety and panic attacks. Diazepam is a
26 Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057.

27
28 ¹ http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/erashdb/EmergencyResponseCard_29750022.html

1 20. Clonazepam – Generic name for Klonopin. Clonazepam is an anti-anxiety
2 medication in the benzodiazepine family used to prevent seizures, panic disorder and akathisia.
3 Clonazepam is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title
4 21 section 1308.14(c). It is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety
5 Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions
6 Code section 4022.

7 21. Lorazepam – Generic name for Ativan. Lorazepam is a member of the
8 benzodiazepine family and is a fast acting anti-anxiety medication used for the short-term
9 management of severe anxiety. Lorazepam is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to
10 Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(c). It is a Schedule IV controlled substance
11 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug
12 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

13 22. Temazepam – Generic name for Restoril. Temazepam is a member of the
14 benzodiazepine family and is a medication used to treat trouble sleeping. Temazepam is a
15 Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section
16 1308.14(c). It is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section
17 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section
18 4022.

19 23. Buprenorphine – Generic name for Butrans. Buprenorphine is an opioid used to treat
20 opioid addiction, moderate acute pain, and moderate chronic pain. When used in combination
21 with naloxone for treating opioid addiction, it is known by the trade name Suboxone. As a
22 transdermal patch, Butrans is used for chronic pain. Buprenorphine is a Schedule III controlled
23 substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 Section 1308.13(e). Buprenorphine is
24 a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

25 24. Oxycodone with acetaminophen – Generic name for Percocet and Endocet. Percocet
26 is a short-acting opioid analgesic used to treat moderate to severe pain. Percocet is a Schedule II
27 controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.12. Percocet
28

1 is a dangerous drug pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4022 and is a
2 Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 11055(b).

3 25. Morphine – Generic name for the drug MS Contin. Morphine is an opioid analgesic
4 drug. It is the main psychoactive chemical in opium. Like other opioids, such as oxycodone,
5 hydromorphone, and heroin, morphine acts directly on the CNS to relieve pain. Morphine is a
6 Scheduled II controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section
7 1308.12. Morphine is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
8 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section
9 4022.

10 26. Hydrocodone with acetaminophen – Generic name for the drugs Vicodin, Norco, and
11 Lortab. Hydrocodone with acetaminophen is classified as an opioid analgesic combination
12 product used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. Prior to October 6, 2014, hydrocodone
13 with acetaminophen was a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal
14 Regulations Title 21 section 1308.13(e).² Hydrocodone with acetaminophen is a dangerous drug
15 pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4022 and is a Schedule II controlled
16 substance pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b).

17 27. Methadone – Generic name for Symoron. Methadone is a synthetic opioid. It is used
18 medically as an analgesic and a maintenance anti-addictive and reductive preparation for use by
19 patients with opioid dependence. Methadone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
20 Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.12. It is a Schedule II controlled substance
21 pursuant to Health and Safety Code 11055, subdivision (c), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
22 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

23 28. Carisoprodol – Generic name for Soma. Carisoprodol is a centrally acting skeletal
24 muscle relaxant. On January 11, 2012, carisoprodol was classified a Schedule IV controlled
25 substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(c). It is a dangerous
26 drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

27 ² On October 6, 2014, hydrocodone combination products were reclassified as Schedule II
28 controlled substances. Federal Register Volume 79, Number 163. Code of Federal Regulations
Title 21 section 1308.12.

1 29. Zolpidem tartrate – Generic name for Ambien. Zolpidem tartrate is a sedative and
2 hypnotic used for short term treatment of insomnia. Zolpidem tartrate is a Schedule IV controlled
3 substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(c). It is a Schedule
4 IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a
5 dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

6 30. Tramadol – Generic name for the drug Ultram. Tramadol is an opioid pain
7 medication used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. Effective August 18, 2014,
8 tramadol was placed into Schedule IV of the Controlled Substances Act pursuant to Code of
9 Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(b). It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and
10 Professions Code section 4022.

11 31. Eszopiclone – Generic name for Lunesta. Eszopiclone is a nonbenzodiazepine
12 hypnotic agent used in the treatment of insomnia. Eszopiclone is classified as a Schedule IV
13 controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(c). It is a
14 dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

15 32. Triazolam – Generic name for Halcion. Triazolam is a CNS depressant in the
16 benzodiazepine class. It possesses pharmacological properties similar to those of other
17 benzodiazepines, but it is generally only used as a sedative to treat severe insomnia. Triazolam is
18 a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section
19 1308.14(c) and Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug
20 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

21 33. Modafinil – Generic name for the drug Provigil. Modafinil is a medication to treat
22 sleepiness due to narcolepsy, shift work sleep disorder, or obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).
23 Modafinil is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21
24 section 1308.14(c) and Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous
25 drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

26 34. Meprobamate – Generic name for the drugs Miltown and Equanil. Meprobamate is a
27 carbamate derivative used as an anxiolytic drug. It has largely been replaced by benzodiazepines
28 due to their wider therapeutic index (lower risk of toxicity at therapeutically prescribed doses)

1 and lower incidence of serious side effects. Meprobamate is a Schedule IV controlled substance
2 pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 section 1308.14(c) and Health and Safety Code
3 section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
4 section 4022.

5 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**
7 **(Gross Negligence- Patient A)**

8 35. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234
9 subdivision (b), 3502, and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
10 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he committed gross negligence during the
11 care and treatment of Patient A³. The circumstances are as follows:

12 36. Respondent is the supervising physician of physician assistant G.D. (PA GD), who,
13 during all times alleged herein, practiced in a clinic primarily in pain management in Placerville,
14 CA. During his interview with the Board, PA GD stated that the signatures of Respondent, his
15 supervising physician were auto populated. PA GD affirmed that the signatures are for billing
16 purposes and did not signify that Respondent actually saw the patient or reviewed the chart.

17 37. Patient A was a 33-year-old male with long history of anxiety/PTSD, chronic pain
18 syndrome, back pain. He had pain since 1999 after a 12 gauge shotgun blast to the abdomen and
19 a rollover accident. He suffered vertebral fractures, disc ruptures, hepatitis C with liver cirrhosis.
20 Patient A was being referred from a pain management group in El Dorado County.
21 Documentation from the prior provider revealed that Patient A was on methadone over 420
22 tablets, 10 mg, 3 tablets 4 times a day, and 2 tablets before bedtime; Xanax 1 mg, 3 times a day;
23 and oxycodone 15 mg, 3 times a day. Patient A was being weaned off methadone by his prior
24 provider. The CURES report from the prior provider showed that methadone was filled at around
25 200 tablets a month. Respondent's signature was auto-populated and PA GD documented "RTC
26 to see [D]."

27 _____
28 ³ Patient names and information have been removed. Percipient witness names and
information have been removed. All witnesses will be fully identified in discovery.

1 38. On or about June 26, 2012, PA GD saw Patient A for an office visit. PA GD
2 documented that Patient was being seen for pain management. PA GD documented that Patient
3 A's CURES report was consistent with the drugs prescribed by his prior provider. Patient A
4 signed a contract dated June 24, 2012, where he agreed, *inter-alia*, that losing medication, and
5 stolen medication would mean termination of treatment. PA GD documented the treatment plan
6 as: "To be seen by (Respondent) on RTC; Urine Drug Test; Long discussion on the side effects of
7 Xanax with narcotics; Xanax .25mg one po q6h #120 NR; Methadone 10mg 4 tabs QID #420,
8 NR; Oxycodone 15mg one po q8h, prn #90 for breakthrough pain." PA GD failed to ask for
9 documentation of Patient A's prior history, old records and consultations. PA GD failed to order
10 any diagnostic testing to confirm the sources of pain and failed to coordinate with psychiatric
11 care. PA GD also failed to have Respondent read the chart and examine the patient to formulate
12 Patient A's treatment plan. PA GD doubled the dose of methadone from 200 tablets to 420
13 without documenting the reason. PA GD failed to verify and compare the CURES report on
14 Patient A and Patient A's medical record to determine the correct dosage of methadone.

15 39. During the period of June to December 2012, PA GD prescribed methadone 10 mg, at
16 420 tablets; Xanax .25 mg, at 180 tablets; and oxycodone 15 mg, at 90 tablets.

17 40. In a urine toxicology screen collected June 26, 2012, Patient A tested positive for
18 Klonopin metabolites. Patient A tested negative for oxycodone and Xanax, which was currently
19 prescribed to him by his prior provider. PA GD failed to address the positive and negative tests
20 consistent with the pain contract.

21 41. PA GD next saw Patient A on or about July 17, 2012, August 14, 2012, September
22 18, 2012, October 16, 2012, November 13, 2012, and December 11, 2012. PA GD's
23 documentation for musculoskeletal examination were identical. Respondent's signatures were all
24 auto-populated.

25 42. During the period of January 2013 to December 2013, PA GD continued to prescribe
26 methadone, oxycodone and Xanax.

27 ///

28 ///

1 43. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 7, 2013, Patient A tested positive for
2 Klonopin metabolites and marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test
3 consistent with the pain contract.

4 44. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 7, 2013, Patient A tested positive for
5 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
6 contract.

7 45. PA GD saw Patient A for office visits on or about January 8, 2013, February 5, 2013,
8 March 5, 2013, April 30, 2013, May 28, 2013, June 25, 2013, August 20, 2013, September 17,
9 2013, October 15, 2013, and November 12, 2013. Respondent's signatures were all auto-
10 populated. PA GD continued to incorrectly document that Patient A's CURES reports were
11 consistent with Patient A's medications despite the inconsistent test results in Patient A's urine
12 toxicology tests.

13 46. During the period of January 2014 to November 2014, PA GD continued to prescribe
14 methadone, oxycodone and Xanax.

15 47. On or about December 29, 2014, PA GD documented under his Resultant PGT
16 Treatment Plan that Patient A, "should not be placed on Methadone; Avoid using Valium; Ativan
17 and Serax (instead use clonazepam and Xanax ok)." PA GD reduced methadone to 300 tablets,
18 10 mg, increased oxycodone and added fentanyl 50 mcg 10 tablets.

19 48. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 11, 2014, Patient A tested positive for
20 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
21 contract.

22 49. In a urine toxicology screen collected April 8, 2014, Patient A tested positive for
23 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
24 contract.

25 50. In a urine toxicology screen collected July 10, 2014, Patient A tested positive for
26 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
27 contract.

28 ///

1 51. In a urine toxicology screen collected October 8, 2014, Patient A tested positive for
2 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
3 contract.

4 52. On or about August 27, 2014, United HealthCare mailed a letter to Respondent
5 stating that Patient A was on a high daily dose of opioids exceeding 200 mg morphine equivalent.

6 53. PA GD saw Patient A for office visits on or about January 7, 2014, February 11,
7 2014, March 11, 2014, April 8, 2014, May 6, 2014, June 10, 2014, August 5, 2014, September
8 10, 2014, October 5, 2014, and December 3, 2014. PA GD's documentation for musculoskeletal
9 examination were identical. Respondent's signatures were all auto-populated. PA GD continued
10 to incorrectly document that Patient A's CURES reports were consistent with Patient A's
11 medications despite the inconsistent test results in Patient A's urine toxicology tests.

12 54. During the period of January 2015 to December 2015, PA GD continued to prescribe
13 fentanyl, methadone, oxycodone and Xanax.

14 55. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 25, 2015, Patient A tested negative for
15 fentanyl, and positive for marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the negative and
16 positive test consistent with the pain contract.

17 56. In a urine toxicology screen collected June 24, 2015, Patient A tested positive for
18 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
19 contract.

20 57. In a urine toxicology screen collected October 28, 2015, Patient A tested positive for
21 marijuana metabolites. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
22 contract.

23 58. PA GD saw Patient A monthly for office visits monthly from January 2015 to
24 December 2015. Respondent's signatures were all auto-populated. PA GD continued to
25 incorrectly document that Patient A's CURES reports were consistent with Patient A's
26 medications despite the inconsistent test results in Patient A's urine toxicology tests.

27 59. During the period of January 2016 to December 2016, PA GD continued to prescribe
28 fentanyl, methadone, oxycodone and Xanax.

1 60. In a urine toxicology screen collected May 17, 2016, Patient A tested positive for
2 oxazepam. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

3 61. PA GD saw Patient A for office visits on or about January 19, 2016, February 16,
4 2016, March 15, 2016, April 19, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 22, 2016, August 17, 2016,
5 September 14, 2016, October 19, 2016 and December 14, 2016. Respondent's signatures were all
6 auto-populated. PA GD continued to incorrectly document that Patient A's CURES reports were
7 consistent with Patient A's medications despite the inconsistent test results in Patient A's urine
8 toxicology tests.

9 62. During the period of January 2017 to September 2017, PA GD continued to prescribe
10 fentanyl, methadone, oxycodone and Xanax.

11 63. On or about July 17, 2017 PA GD tapered Patient A's fentanyl prescription to 25
12 mcg, 15 tablets and methadone 10 mg, 270 tablets.

13 64. On or about September 17, 2017, PA GD further tapered Patient A's fentanyl
14 prescription to 12mcg, 15 tablets, and eventually discontinued fentanyl.

15 65. On or about October 17, 2017, PA GD tapered Patient A's oxycodone prescription to
16 10 mg, 60 tablets and subsequently reduced to 30 tablets.

17 66. PA GD saw Patient A monthly for office visits monthly from January 2017 to
18 December 2017. Respondent's signatures were all auto-populated. PA GD continued to
19 incorrectly document that Patient A's CURES reports were consistent with Patient A's
20 medications despite the inconsistent test results in Patient A's urine toxicology tests.

21 67. In a urine toxicology screen collected January 11, 2018, Patient A tested negative for
22 oxycodone. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

23 68. On or about February 6, 2018, PA GD saw Patient A for an office visit.
24 Respondent's signatures were all auto-populated. PA GD continued to incorrectly document that
25 Patient A's CURES reports were consistent with Patient A's medications despite the inconsistent
26 test results in Patient A's urine toxicology tests. PA GD discontinued oxycodone. PA GD only
27 started to consider hyperalgesia after he started to taper Patient A off and he did so well.

28 ///

1 69. In an interview with the Board on October 15, 2019, Respondent stated that he never
2 saw Patient A in person. He did not recall talking to PA GD about the current management of
3 Patient A; he was not aware that PA GD was providing 15 fentanyl patches to Patient A monthly.
4 He was not aware that on two occasions when Patient A's urine drug screen was negative for
5 fentanyl, PA GD continued to prescribe Fentanyl to Patient A. He does not recall anything about
6 Patient A.

7 70. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A which
8 included, but was not limited to the following:

9 a. Respondent failed to consult with PA GD and cosign the notes within the required
10 seven days when schedule II drugs were prescribed and 30 days in all other cases.

11 b. Respondent committed inaccurate recordkeeping by allowing the use of template
12 notes by PA GD, including but not limited: physical examinations that were not performed
13 currently; misrepresentation of his involvement in Patient A's care by auto-populating his
14 signature; documenting that he was going to examine Patient A on the next office visit; and
15 documenting that Patient A CURES report was compliant, despite the inconsistent urine
16 toxicology tests.

17 c. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe opioids without reason, failing to take into
18 consideration and/or document the rationale for prescribing opioids, ignoring multiple red flags
19 including inconsistent urine toxicology.

20 d. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe benzodiazepines with high dose narcotics,
21 without good reason, consultation, prescription for Narcan, or an alternative drug, and written
22 input from him.

23 e. Respondent failed to adequately supervise PA GD. Respondent failed to co-sign any
24 notes, and he failed to co-sign when controlled medication was prescribed. Respondent never
25 met or examined Patient A. Respondent failed to audit PA GD's chart and/or look at the urine
26 drug tests and/or review CURES. Respondent was unaware of the standard of care for
27 prescribing opioids. Respondent failed to make appropriate referrals to specialists.

28 ///

1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Gross Negligence- Patient B)

3 71. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234
4 subdivision (b), 3502, and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
5 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he committed gross negligence during the
6 care and treatment of Patient B. The circumstances are as follows:

7 72. On or about March 6, 2012, PA GD saw Patient B for an office visit. PA GD
8 documented that Patient B was at the time a 37-year-old female being seen for pain management.
9 Patient B was an EMT in 1995 who was lifting a patient when she experienced neck and back
10 pain. Patient B's ambulance crashed resulting in a C6-7 and T1 ant T2 vertebral fractures.
11 Patient later found out that she had osteogenesis imperfect (OI)⁴. Patient B has fractured several
12 other bones and recently her pelvis. Patient B has been on pain medications since 1995. PA GD
13 added that Patient B has been followed by Dr. M, primary care, but needed to be followed by pain
14 management. PA GD documented Patient B's current medication as methadone 10 mg, 8 tablets,
15 3 times a day, Endocet 10/325, 180 tablets, morphine 30 mg, Adderall, and amphetamines, and
16 Xanax. PA GD continued to prescribe Adderall 20 mg, at 180 tablets, methadone 10 mg, 720
17 tablets, morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets, Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets. Patient B signed a contract
18 dated March 6, 2012, where she agreed, *inter-alia*, that losing medication, and stolen medication
19 would mean termination of treatment. Respondent's signature was auto-populated and PA GD
20 documented "RTC to see [D]." PA GD failed to ask for documentation of Patient B's prior
21 history, old records, and consultations. PA GD failed to order any diagnostic testing to confirm
22 the sources of pain, the diagnosis for narcolepsy and sleepiness to support doubling the maximum
23 dosage of Adderall. PA GD also failed to have his supervising physician read the chart and
24 examine the patient to formulate Patient B's treatment plan. PA GD failed to verify and compare
25 the CURES report on Patient B.

26 ///

27 _____
28 ⁴ Also known as brittle bone disease, it is a group of genetic disorders that mainly result in brittle, easy to break bones.

1 73. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 12, 2012, Patient B tested negative for
2 morphine. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

3 74. During the period of March 12, 2012 to December 2012, PA GD saw Patient B
4 monthly for office visits, and prescribed Adderall 20 mg, at 180 tablets, methadone 10 mg, 720
5 tablets, morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets, Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets.

6 75. On or about April 17, 2012, PA GD saw Patient B for an office visit. PA GD
7 documented that Patient B's CURES report was consistent with the drugs prescribed despite the
8 March 12, 2012 urine toxicology testing negative for the prescribed morphine.

9 76. In a urine toxicology screen collected November 20, 2012, Patient B tested negative
10 for morphine. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

11 77. During the period of January 2013 to December 2013, PA GD saw Patient B monthly
12 for office visits, and prescribed Adderall 20 mg, at 180 tablets, methadone 10 mg, 720 tablets,
13 morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets, Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets. Patient B was also getting modafinil
14 from another provider.

15 78. In a urine toxicology screen collected March 12, 2013, Patient B tested negative for
16 morphine. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

17 79. On or about April 9, 2013 PA GD saw Patient B for an office visit. PA GD
18 documented that Patient B's CURES report is consistent for medications despite the March 12,
19 2013 negative test for morphine.

20 80. In a urine toxicology screen collected July 1, 2013, Patient B tested negative for
21 morphine. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

22 81. On or about August 14, 2013, Broadspire Utilization Management (Broadspire),
23 affiliated with Patient B's insurer, reviewed PA GD's prescription plan and wrote Respondent's
24 office that the opioids he was prescribing were too high, well above the guidelines for pain.
25 Broadspire also found that there was no documented medical rationale for its use.

26 82. On or about July 30, 2013 PA GD saw Patient B for an office visit. PA GD
27 documented that Patient B's CURES report is consistent for medications despite the July 1, 2013
28 negative test for morphine.

1 83. During the period of January 2014 to December 2014, PA GD saw Patient B monthly
2 for office visits, and prescribed methadone 10 mg, 720 tablets, morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets,
3 Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets.

4 84. In a urine toxicology screen collected December 9, 2014, Patient B tested negative for
5 oxycodone, methadone and amphetamines. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent
6 with the pain contract.

7 85. On or about December 2014, Patient B was hospitalized for Afib.

8 86. During the period of January 2015 to December 2015, PA GD saw Patient B monthly
9 for office visits, and prescribed methadone 10 mg, 720 tablets, morphine 30 mg, 180 tablets and
10 Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets.

11 87. In a urine toxicology screen collected June 16, 2015, Patient B tested positive for
12 cocaine. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

13 88. In a urine toxicology screen collected August 11, 2015, Patient B tested positive for
14 cocaine. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

15 89. In a urine toxicology screen collected September 8, 2015, it was noted that the "OPI
16 test" could not be performed because of an "interfering compound."

17 90. On or about October 21, 2015, PA GD saw Patient B for an office visit. PA GD
18 documented "We have recommended that the patient seek another pain management provider,
19 and a recovery center such as Azure Acres. The patient's cardiac condition does not allow any
20 tapering of her medication..." PA GD documented "Patient was prescribed one week's worth of
21 pain medication because of inconsistencies in her UDT. Patient CURES report 10/16/2015 is
22 consistent for medications..."

23 91. On or about December 7, 2015, Broadspire wrote Respondent's clinic warning again
24 that the dosage for opioids were too high.

25 92. During the period of January 2016 to December 2016, PA GD saw Patient B monthly
26 for office visits, and prescribed methadone 10 mg, 720 tablets, morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets,
27 Percocet 10/325, 180 tablets.

28 ///

1 93. During the period of January 2017 to February 16, 2017, and July 27, 2017, PA GD
2 prescribed methadone 10 mg, 720 tablets, morphine, 30 mg, 180 tablets, Percocet 10/325, 180
3 tablets. PA GD last saw Patient B on February 28, 2017. In an interview with the Board, PA GD
4 disavowed any knowledge of the July 27, 2017 prescription.

5 94. In an interview with the Board on October 15, 2019, Respondent stated that he never
6 saw Patient B in person. He was not aware that PA GD's progress notes said that Patient B's
7 urine drug toxic screens were consistent when in fact they were not. He recalled one incident
8 where the urine drug screen was inconsistent and Patient B threatened a lawsuit. He was not aware
9 that Patient B's high dose medications were not appearing in her urine drug screens, and that PA
10 GD continued to prescribe to Patient B. He was unaware that PA GD prescribed high dose
11 amphetamines to Patient B; he was unaware of the Broadspire letters between 2013 and 2015
12 warning Respondent about Patient B's opioid prescriptions.

13 95. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient B which
14 included, but was not limited to the following:

15 a. Respondent failed to document correct reviews of the current urine drug tests.

16 b. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe super maximal doses of opioids with
17 negative urine drug tests.

18 c. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe super maximal doses of amphetamines.

19 d. Respondent failed to change the treatment plan when the urine drug tests show that
20 Patient B was not taking the drugs prescribed.

21 e. Respondent failed to change the treatment plan when cocaine was seen in the urine
22 drug tests.

23 f. Respondent failed to consult with PA GD and cosign the notes within the required
24 seven days when schedule II drugs were prescribed and 30 days in all other cases.

25 g. Respondent committed inaccurate recordkeeping by allowing the use of template
26 notes by PA GD, including but not limited to: physical examinations that were not performed
27 currently; misrepresentation of his involvement in Patient B's care by auto-populating his
28 signature; documenting that he was going to examine Patient B on the next office visit; and

1 documenting that Patient B CURES report was compliant, despite the inconsistent urine
2 toxicology tests.

3 h. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe opioids without reason, failing to take into
4 consideration and/or document the rationale for prescribing opioids, ignoring multiple red flags
5 including inconsistent urine toxicology and letters from Broadspire.

6 j. Respondent failed to adequately supervise PA GD. Respondent failed to co-sign any
7 notes, and he failed to co-sign when controlled medication was prescribed. Respondent never
8 met or examined Patient B. Respondent failed to audit PA GD's chart and/or look at the urine
9 drug tests and/or review CURES. Respondent was unaware of the standard of care for
10 prescribing opioids. Respondent failed to make appropriate referrals to specialists.

11 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

12 (Gross Negligence- Patient C)

13 96. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234
14 subdivision (b), 3502, and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
15 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he committed gross negligence during the
16 care and treatment of Patient C. The circumstances are as follows:

17 97. On or about September 24, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
18 documented that Patient C was at the time a 53-year-old female being seen for pain management.
19 Her past medical history included surgeries for Chemonucleolysis in 1981, Anterior Lumbar
20 Fusion L5-S1 in 1982, Posterior Lumbar Fusion L3-L5 in 2002, and Posterior Lumbar Fusion in
21 2004. PA GD recorded Patient C's current medication as Oxycontin, oxycodone, zolpidem
22 tartrate, lorazepam, Keppra, Adderall and Lunesta. Patient C also had a seizure disorder. Patient
23 C signed a contract dated September 24, 2013, where she agreed, *inter-alia*, that losing
24 medication, and stolen medication would mean termination of treatment. PA GD continued to
25 prescribe Patient C Oxycontin, oxycodone, zolpidem tartrate, Lorazepam, Keppra, Adderall and
26 Lunesta. Respondent's signature was auto-populated and PA GD documented "RTC to see [D]."

27 ///

28 ///

1 98. In a urine toxicology screen collected September 24, 2013, Patient C tested positive
2 for tramadol, temazepam, oxazepam, Soma and meprobamate. PA GD failed to address the
3 positive test consistent with the pain contract.

4 99. On or about October 1, 2013, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. During the
5 office visit, PA GD documented that Patient C's CURES was consistent for medications and
6 provider despite the September 24, 2013 urine test. Respondent's signature was auto-populated
7 and PA GD documented "RTC to see [D]."

8 100. In a urine toxicology screen collected October 1, 2013, Patient C tested positive for
9 meprobamate. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

10 101. On or about October 8, 2013, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. During the
11 office visit, PA GD documented that Patient C's CURES was consistent for medications and
12 provider despite the October 1, 2013 urine test. Respondent's signature was auto-populated and
13 PA GD documented "RTC to see [D]."

14 102. On or about October 29, 2013, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. Under his
15 treatment plan, PA GD documented that he was prescribing Soma.

16 103. On or about November 12, 2013, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. Under his
17 treatment plan, PA GD documented that he was discontinuing Soma. However, he issued a
18 prescription for Soma 350 mg, 100 tablets, on the same date.

19 104. In a urine toxicology screen collected November 12, 2013, Patient C tested positive
20 for temazepam and oxazepam. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
21 contract.

22 105. On or about December 26, 2013, PA GD presented to the Sutter Roseville Medical
23 Center Emergency Department. Triage notes indicated that Patient C "fell while walking; lost
24 balance. The patient has had trouble walking."

25 106. On or about December 30, 2013, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
26 documented that "Patient was seen in the ER for a fall and hurt her left hip again. X-rays show
27 degenerative changes with a MRI history of neurosis. Patient has ran out of pain medications
28 early. Patient is to have left hip replacement in March. I reviewed the patient's health current

1 CURES report 12/30/2013 is consistent for medications and provider.” PA GD failed to address
2 the early refill consistent with the pain contract. PA GD added methadone 10 mg, and Soma 350
3 mg.

4 107. On or about January 7, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
5 documented that “Patient was put on Methadone 10mg TID. Patient states the Oxycodone works
6 better. I explained to the patient that we need to give Methadone a longer trial. Patient admitted
7 to taking more of her Methadone and is out. Patient admitted to drinking with her medications.
8 The patient has a scheduled hip surgery on 3/3/2014 with Dr. [P].” PA GD failed to address the
9 early refill, and drinking consistent with the pain contract. PA GD discontinued methadone.
10 Patient C’s current medications are Adderall, diazepam, methadone, Soma, lorazepam,
11 oxycodone and Oxycontin.

12 108. During the period of January to December 2014, PA GD saw Patient C monthly and
13 refilled her opioid medications periodically.

14 109. On or about March 18, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
15 documented that Patient C “had right hip replacement in March3rd by Dr. [P]. Patient was placed
16 on several discharge pain medications; Oxycontin, baclofen, Lorazepam, OxyIR, Patient ran out
17 of her discharge medications and her refill date isn’t till next week.” PA GD failed to address the
18 early refill consistent with the pain contract.

19 110. On or about April 8, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
20 documented that Patient C “had right hip replacement in March3rd by Dr. [P]. Patient was placed
21 on several discharge pain medications; Oxycontin, baclofen, Lorazepam, OxyIR, Patient ran out
22 of her discharge medications and her refill date isn’t till next week.” PA GD failed to address the
23 early refill consistent with the pain contract.

24 111. On or about April 14, 2014, Patient C called Respondent’s office, stating that she
25 dislocated her hip and that she needed an early refill for her discharge medication.

26 112. On or about June 10, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
27 documented that Patient C dislocated her left hip on June 3, 2014. PA GD also documented that
28 Patient C’s “COMM assessment for opiate misuse was +18 = high risk.” PA GD continued to

1 prescribe lorazepam, Oxycontin, oxycodone, Soma and added Dilaudid. PA GD failed to
2 document why he added Dilaudid.

3 113. In a urine toxicology screen collected July 8, 2014, Patient C tested negative for
4 lorazepam. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

5 114. On or about August 12, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
6 documented that "Patient fell at home and fractured her nose. Patient had a seizure last month and
7 was arrested for a 'DUI' for ETOH.⁵" PA GD failed to address the falls and DUI consistent with
8 the pain contract and signs of abuse.

9 115. On or about December 3, 2014, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
10 documented that "Patient is having increasing back pain. Patient was released from hospital Dec
11 1st for an infected hip. The patient had to have her left hip debrided and placed on antibiotics."

12 116. During the period of January 2015 to December 2015 PA GD saw Patient C monthly
13 for office visits and refilled lorazepam, oxycodone, and Oxycontin. Patient C also received Soma
14 and other controlled drugs from other providers.

15 117. On or about March 12, 2015, Patient C saw another provider, Dr. O. after her hip
16 surgery. Dr. O., noted that they have advised PA GD about Patient C's frequent falls, recent
17 overdoses. Dr. O. also advised that PA GD consider SNF placement temporarily until 24 hour
18 help could be obtained.

19 118. On or about March 17, 2015, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
20 documented "After reviewing the report and discussing the results with DR. D, and the patient we
21 have concluded that an evaluation y physical therapy concerning her balance, mechanical causes
22 of frequent falls, and whether any of her most frequent falls can be attributed to her use of pain
23 medications is needed."

24 119. On or about April 14, 2015, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
25 documented "I have reviewed the patients' health current CURES report 0/4/07/2015 is
26 inconsistent with the patient's history for medications and provider. This patient has been given

27 ⁵ Ethyl alcohol, or ethanol. This clear substance is found in alcoholic drinks such as beer,
28 wine and liquor. The term EtOH is commonly used in academic research and in medical circles
when referring to alcohol.

1 about 500 oxycodone or Oxycontin both inside the hospital and through her surgeon. Patient is
2 asking for more oxycodone until she can have her Rx refilled on 04/16/15. I instructed the patient
3 no more early refills and DNF until 04/16/15 for both medications.”

4 120. On or about September 2, 2015, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
5 documented that “Once patient has completed her hip rehab we plan to take the patient off of
6 oxycodone and prescribe fentanyl patches for pain management.”

7 121. During the period of January 2016 to December 2016, PA GD saw Patient C monthly
8 for office visits and refilled lorazepam, oxycodone and Oxycontin. PA GD also added fentanyl
9 patches in February 2016. Patient C also received Soma and other controlled drugs from other
10 providers.

11 122. On or about February 17, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
12 documented that “Patient was release for the hospital following a lumbar laminectomy
13 02/01/2016. Patient has a post-operative appointment in three weeks. Patient’s medications are
14 not helping with her pain.” PA GD prescribed fentanyl at 50 mcg, 10 patches.

15 123. On or about March 16, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
16 increased fentanyl to 75 mcg, 10 patches.

17 124. On or about April 7, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
18 documented that “Patient is still using a walker for her hip pain.” PA GD added that he
19 “[d]iscussed the complications of using benzodiazepines and opioids.” PA GD documented that
20 “Patient states that her fentanyl was stolen from her house.”

21 125. On or about May 17, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
22 documented “Patient is now using a cane to ambulate. Patient fell in the bathroom and contused
23 her left forehead. Patient was shorted her Rx for fentanyl by the pharmacist instead of 15 patches
24 the patient received 10.” PA GD’s medical record indicate that his last prescription was for 10
25 patches. PA GD increased Patient C’s fentanyl prescription to 75mcg, 15 patches.

26 126. In a urine toxicology screen collected May 17, 2016, Patient C tested positive for
27 alcohol. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

28 ///

1 127. In a urine toxicology screen collected June 8, 2016, Patient C tested positive for
2 alcohol. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

3 128. On or about June 8, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
4 documented "Patient states she is hallucinating with the Fentanyl Patches." PA GD documented
5 that Patient C's "Preliminary UDT was + for oxycodone and ETOH (discussed the use of ETOH
6 and drugs with the patient.)"

7 129. On or about July 6, 2016, PA GD saw Patient C for an office visit. PA GD
8 documented "Robinson pharmacy stated that [Patient C] received over 600 tables (sic) by
9 accident instead of 180 oxycodone 30mg at q4h by mistake. Patient C states she never received
10 600 tablets only 180."

11 130. In a urine toxicology screen collected July 6, 2016, Patient C tested negative for all
12 opioids prescribed by PA GD. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain
13 contract.

14 131. In a urine toxicology screen collected August 4, 2016, Patient C tested positive for
15 alcohol and oxycodone only. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain
16 contract.

17 132. During the period of January 2017 to June 2018, PA GD prescribed oxycodone,
18 lorazepam and Oxycontin.

19 133. On or about January 18, 2017, Patient C went to Respondent's clinic and reported that
20 she lost the prescription and needed a new one. PA GD issued a new prescription. At or around
21 2:00 p.m., Patient C called back with a story of "how her new prescription ended up being torn to
22 shreds after it had fallen out of her pocket, into a puddle, and then her dog had gotten diarrhea all
23 over it." PA GD "decided that she will have withdrawal medication called in for her and she will
24 be scheduled in one week." PA GD's MA called in prescriptions for Valium, and clonidine⁶.

25 134. In an interview with the Board on October 15, 2019, Respondent stated that he never
26 saw Patient C in person. He did not recall ever talking to PA GD about the current management

27 ⁶ Clonidine, sold as the brand name Catapres among others, is a medication used to treat
28 high blood pressure, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, drug withdrawal (alcohol, opioids, or
smoking), menopausal flushing, diarrhea, and certain pain conditions.

1 of Patient C. He was not aware that Patient C had urine drug screens that were positive for
2 controlled drugs that were not prescribed by PA GD, despite PA GD documenting the urine drug
3 screens were consistent. He was not aware that Patient C had an alcohol use disorder. He was
4 not aware that PA GD was prescribing Soma to Patient C. He was not aware that a nurse
5 practitioner had written a note in 2015, saying that Patient C had overdoses and multiple falls.

6 135. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient C which
7 included, but was not limited to the following:

8 a. Respondent failed to follow his own protocols regarding the treatment of Patient C
9 and refer Patient C for alcohol use disorder treatment. Respondent failed to document any
10 discussion with PA GD regarding Patient C's alcohol use disorder.

11 b. Respondent failed to consult with PA GD and cosign the notes within the required
12 seven days when schedule II drugs were prescribed and 30 days in all other cases.

13 c. Respondent committed inaccurate recordkeeping by allowing the use of template
14 notes by PA GD, including but not limited: physical examinations that were not performed
15 currently; misrepresentation of his involvement in Patient C's care by auto-populating his
16 signature; documenting that he was going to examine Patient C on the next office visit; and
17 documenting that Patient C CURES report was compliant, despite the inconsistent urine
18 toxicology tests.

19 d. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe opioids without reason, and failing to take
20 into consideration and/or document the rationale for prescribing opioids, ignoring multiple red
21 flags including inconsistent urine toxicology.

22 e. Respondent failed to adequately supervise PA GD. Respondent failed to co-sign any
23 notes, and he failed to co-sign when controlled medication was prescribed. Respondent never
24 met or examined Patient C. Respondent failed to audit PA GD's chart and/or look at the urine
25 drug tests and/or review CURES. Respondent was unaware of the standard of care for
26 prescribing opioids. Respondent failed to make appropriate referrals to specialists.

27 f. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe Soma to a substance abuser.

28 ///

1 g. Respondent failed to change his treatment plan despite urine toxicology screening
2 that show that Patient C was not taking the drugs he was prescribing; history of overdosing, and
3 did not consider that she might need psychiatric intervention and a reduction in sedating
4 medications.

5 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**
6 (Gross Negligence- Patient D)

7 136. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234
8 subdivision (b), 3502, and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
9 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he committed gross negligence during the
10 care and treatment of Patient D. The circumstances are as follows:

11 137. On or about June 12, 2012, PA GD saw Patient D for an office visit. PA GD
12 documented that Patient D was at the time a 55-year-old female being seen for pain management.
13 PA GD documented her diagnosis as "Chronic pain syndrome; Right Knee pain; and Left Knee
14 pain." In a March 9, 2012, Dr. KB faxed an oximetry report to Respondent's office concerned
15 about Patient D's hypoxia. Patient D qualified for oxygen and had a sleep breathing disorder.
16 Patient D entered into a pain contract on May 15, 2012 where she agreed, *inter-alia*, that losing
17 medication, and stolen medication would mean termination of treatment. Patient D was
18 prescribed Oxycontin, methadone and Klonopin by her prior provider. PA GD continued to
19 prescribe Oxycontin and methadone. PA GD failed to ask for documentation of Patient D's prior
20 history, old records and consultations. PA GD failed to order any diagnostic testing to confirm
21 the sources of pain. PA GD also failed to have his supervising physician read the chart and
22 examine the patient to formulate Patient D's treatment plan. PA GD failed to obtain a
23 consultation on the abnormal oxygen test from a sleep specialist.

24 138. During the period of June 2012 to December 2013, PA GD prescribed Oxycontin 80
25 mg, 60 tablets, and methadone 10 mg, 180 tablets to Patient D. Patient D received prescriptions
26 for other controlled substances from other providers.

27 139. In a urine toxicology screen collected July 3, 2013, Patient D tested positive for
28 alcohol. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

1 140. During the period of December 2013 to December 2014, PA GD prescribed
2 Oxycontin 80 mg, 60 tablets, and methadone 10 mg, 180 tablets to Patient D.

3 141. On or about July 1, 2014, PA GD saw Patient D for an office visit. PA GD
4 documented that Patient D was a high risk for opioid misuse. PA GD increased Patient D's
5 prescription for methadone to 10 mg, 270 tablets despite the high risk for misuse.

6 142. In a urine toxicology screen collected December 22, 2014, Patient D tested positive
7 for dihydrocodeinone and negative for oxycodone. PA GD failed to address the positive and
8 negative test consistent with the pain contract.

9 143. During the period of December 2014 to December 2015, PA GD prescribed
10 Oxycontin 80 mg, 60 tablets, and methadone 10 mg, 270 tablets to Patient D.

11 144. In a urine toxicology screen collected June 23, 2015, Patient D tested negative for
12 oxycodone. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

13 145. In a urine toxicology screen collected October 13, 2015, Patient D tested positive for
14 oxymorphone. PA GD failed to address the positive test consistent with the pain contract.

15 146. During the period of December 2015 to June 2018, PA GD prescribed Oxycontin 80
16 mg, 60 tablets, and methadone 10 mg, 270 tablets to Patient D.

17 147. In a urine toxicology screen collected September 19, 2017, Patient D tested negative
18 for methadone. PA GD failed to address the negative test consistent with the pain contract.

19 148. In an interview with the Board on October 15, 2019, Respondent stated that he never
20 saw Patient D in person. He does not recall ever talking to PA GD about the current management
21 of Patient D. He was not aware that Patient D had a sleep study showing significant oxygen
22 desaturations, and that she was not referred to a sleep specialist and her benzodiazepines were not
23 discontinued, and her opiates were not significantly reduced. He was not aware that Patient D
24 had multiple urine drug toxicology screens that were inconsistent. He was not aware that PA GD
25 was recording that the urine drug screens were consistent when in fact they were not.

26 149. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient D,
27 which included, but was not limited to the following:

28 ///

- 1 a. Respondent failed to supervise PA GD and have Patient D consult with a sleep
2 specialist.
- 3 b. Respondent allowed methadone to be used on a prn basis.
- 4 c. Respondent failed to consult with PA GD and co-sign the notes within the required
5 seven days when Schedule II drugs were prescribed and 30 days in all other cases.
- 6 d. Respondent committed inaccurate recordkeeping by allowing the use of template
7 notes by PA GD, including but not limited to: physical examinations that were not performed
8 currently; misrepresentation of his involvement in Patient D's care by auto-populating his
9 signature; documenting that he was going to examine Patient D on the next office visit; and
10 documenting that Patient D's CURES report was compliant, despite the inconsistent urine
11 toxicology tests.
- 12 e. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe opioids without reason, failing to take into
13 consideration and/or document the rationale for prescribing opioids, ignoring multiple red flags
14 including inconsistent urine toxicology, stolen medication, early refills and warning letters from
15 other providers in his treatment plan.
- 16 f. Respondent failed to adequately supervise PA GD. Respondent failed to co-sign any
17 notes, and he failed to co-sign when controlled medication was prescribed. Respondent never
18 met or examined Patient D. Respondent failed to audit PA GD's chart and/or look at the urine
19 drug tests and/or review CURES. Respondent was unaware of the standard of care for
20 prescribing opioids. Respondent failed to make appropriate referrals to specialists.
- 21 g. Respondent failed to obtain a consultation with a specialist when Patient D presented
22 with an abnormal oxygen test.
- 23 h. Respondent allowed PA GD to prescribe high dose narcotics, without good reason,
24 consultation, and written input from his supervisor. Respondent is not following the protocol he
25 agreed to with PA GD regarding the treatment of alcoholics needing to get coincidental alcohol
26 treatment in order to continue their pain management.

27 ///

28 ///

1 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

3 150. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234,
4 subdivision (c), 3502, and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
5 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he committed repeated negligent acts during
6 the care of Patient A, B, C and D as more fully described above. The circumstances are set forth
7 in paragraphs 35 through 149, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as
8 if fully set forth herein.

9 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 (Excessive Prescribing)

11 151. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under sections 3527, 2234,
12 subdivision (c), 3502 and 3502.1, of the Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations
13 sections 1399.540, 1399.541, and 1399.545, in that he has excessively prescribed controlled
14 substances and dangerous drugs to Patients A, B, C and D. The circumstances are set forth in
15 paragraphs 35 through 149, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully
16 set forth herein.

17 **SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 (Prescribing Controlled Substances Without Appropriate Examination or Medical Indication)

19 152. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227, 2234 and
20 2242, in that he has prescribed controlled substances and dangerous drugs to Patients A, B, C and
21 D. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 35 through 149, above, which are hereby
22 incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

23 **EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

24 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)

25 153. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code,
26 in that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records relating to his care and
27 treatment of Patients A, B, C and D. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 35 through
28 149, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

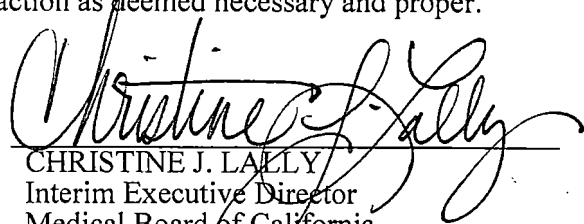
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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 No. A 55172, issued to James Peter Dickens, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of James Peter Dickens, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering James Peter Dickens, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: MAR 02 2020


CHRISTINE J. LALLY
Interim Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

SA2019301091
33919923.docx