

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No G 60317

Respondent

Case No. 800-2017-033722

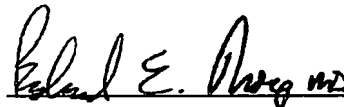
DECISION

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 25, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED May 26, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Richard E. Thorp, M.D., Chair
Panel B

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 LEANNA E. SHIELDS
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-033722

14 **CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL,**
15 **M.D.**

OAH No. 2020070041

15 2433 Vista Drive
16 Upland, CA 91784

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
17 No. G 60317,

18 Respondent.

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

22 **PARTIES**

23 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
24 California (Board).¹ This action was brought by then Complainant Christine J. Lally, Interim
25 Executive Director, solely in her official capacity. Complainant is represented in this matter by
26 Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by LeAnna E. Shields, Deputy
27 Attorney General.

28 ¹ Mr. Prasifka became the Executive Director of the Medical Board on June 15, 2020.

1 2. Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
2 proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., with Doyle Schafer McMahon, LLP, whose
3 address is: 5440 Trabuco Road, Irvine, CA 92620.

4 3. On or about June 8, 1987, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
5 G 60317 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at
6 all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2017-033722, and will expire on
7 March 31, 2023, unless renewed.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 4. On June 3, 2020, Accusation No. 800-2017-033722 was filed before the Board, and is
10 currently pending against Respondent. On June 3, 2020, a true and correct copy of Accusation
11 No. 800-2017-033722 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on
12 Respondent. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2017-033722 is attached as Exhibit A
14 and incorporated herein by reference.

15 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

16 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the
17 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-033722. Respondent has also carefully read,
18 fully discussed with his counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement
19 and Disciplinary Order.

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

26 8. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently
27 waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

28 ///

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could
3 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation
4 No. 800-2017-033722 and agrees that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's
5 Certificate No. G 60317 to disciplinary action.

6 10. Respondent further agrees that if an accusation is ever filed against him before the
7 Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-
8 2017-033722 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any
9 such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of
10 California.

11 11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 is
12 subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in
13 the Disciplinary Order below.

14 CONTINGENCY

15 12. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the
16 Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be
17 submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the
18 Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated
19 Settlement and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully
20 understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation
21 prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it.

22 13. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be
23 null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except
24 for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and
25 agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and
26 Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or
27 the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify
28 the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any

1 other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the Board does not, in its
2 discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the
3 exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value
4 whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party
5 hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order
6 be rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any
7 member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this
8 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

9 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

10 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to
11 be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the
12 agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

13 15. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order,
14 including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and
15 signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

16 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
17 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following
18 Disciplinary Order:

19 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

20 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 issued
21 to Respondent CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL, M.D., shall be and is hereby publicly
22 reprimanded pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision
23 (a)(4). This Public Reprimand, which is issued in connection with Accusation No. 800-2017-
24 033722, is as follows:

25 On or about October 27, 2014, Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and
26 treatment of Patient A in that he issued a prescription for Lamictal to Patient A without
27 prescribing a sufficiently low initial dose and without prescribing a sufficiently gradual increase
28 in dosage, as more particularly alleged in Accusation No. 800-2017-033722.

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

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

15 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
16 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
17 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

18 2. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective
19 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in
20 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider
21 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.
22 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course
23 not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully
24 complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical
25 record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing
26 Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

27 A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
28 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board

1 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have
2 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of
3 this Decision.

4 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
5 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
6 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

7 **ACCEPTANCE**

8 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
9 discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. Having the benefit of counsel, I enter
10 into it freely, voluntarily, intelligently, and with full knowledge of its force and effect on my
11 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317. I fully understand that, after signing this
12 stipulation, I may not withdraw from it, that it shall be submitted to the Medical Board of
13 California for its consideration, and that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time to
14 consider and act on this stipulation after receiving it. By entering into this stipulation, I fully
15 understand that, upon formal acceptance by the Board, I shall be publicly reprimanded by the
16 Board and shall be required to comply with all of the terms and conditions of the Disciplinary
17 Order set forth above. I also fully understand that any failure to comply with the terms and
18 conditions of the Disciplinary Order set forth above shall constitute unprofessional conduct and
19 will subject my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to further disciplinary action.
20 I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and
21 intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of
22 California.

23
24 DATED:

1/11/21

Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.
CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL, M.D.
Respondent


26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

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

4
5 DATED: January 11, 2021


6 RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.
7 *Attorney for Respondent*


ENDORSEMENT

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

10 DATED: Jan. 12, 2021

11 Respectfully submitted,

12 XAVIER BECERRA
13 Attorney General of California
14 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
15 Supervising Deputy Attorney General


16 LEANNA E. SHIELDS
17 Deputy Attorney General
18 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-033722

1 XAVIER BECERRA
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

9

10

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

11

12

13

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-033722

14

**CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL,
M.D.**

A C C U S A T I O N

15

**2433 Vista Drive
Upland, CA 91784**

16

**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 60317,**

17

18

Respondent.

19

20

21

PARTIES

22

1. 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).

23

24

25

2. On or about June 8, 1987, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, 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 March 31, 2021, unless renewed.

26

27

28

JURISDICTION

1
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 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states, in pertinent part:

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

...

(b) Gross negligence.

...

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1 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence)**

3 6. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to
4 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of
5 the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A¹ as more
6 particularly alleged hereinafter.

7 7. On or about October 27, 2014, Patient A, a then 21-year old female, presented with
8 complaints of depression, alcohol abuse, mood swings, anxiety and paranoia. Patient A was
9 evaluated by Respondent, who diagnosed Patient A with Bipolar I Disorder, symptomatic, and
10 Alcohol Dependence, symptomatic.

11 8. Respondent prescribed Lamictal² to Patient A with instructions to take an initial dose
12 of 50 mg per day for seven days (week 1), 100 mg per day for seven days (week 2), 150 mg per
13 day for seven days (week 3), and 200 mg per day for nine days (week 4).

14 9. Medical records for this visit indicate Patient A signed an informed consent which
15 listed Lamictal, but did not list the potential risks and side effects of the medication. Records for
16 this visit also do not document any discussion with Patient A regarding the initial dose being
17 higher than recommended by the manufacturer and the increase in dosage being more aggressive
18 than recommended by the manufacturer.

19 10. After taking the medication as directed by Respondent, after approximately two
20 weeks, Patient A developed Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis.³

21
22 ¹ Patient identity has been withheld for patient privacy purposes. Respondent is aware of
the identity of the patient referred to herein.

23 ² Lamictal is a brand name for lamotrigine, an anticonvulsant medication commonly used
24 to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires a black
25 box warning to warn patients for risks of Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal
26 Necrolysis. According to the Physicians' Desk Reference, a low initial dose and a gradual
increase in dosage is recommended as follows: 25 mg per day for two weeks (weeks 1 and 2); 50
mg per day for two weeks (weeks 3 and 4), 100 mg per day for one week (week 5), then 200 mg
per day thereafter (week 6 onward).

27 ³ Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) is a serious
28 skin condition that causes the skin to develop rashes and blisters. It also causes extensive damage
to the mucous membranes resulting in sores and blisters in the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals.

1 11. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, which
2 included, but is not limited to:

3 A. Paragraphs 6 through 10, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
4 realleged as if fully set forth herein;

5 B. Respondent failed to prescribe a sufficiently low initial dose of Lamictal to Patient
6 A, Respondent failed to prescribe an appropriate gradual increase in dosage of
7 Lamictal to Patient A, and Respondent failed to discuss, and/or failed to document the
8 discussion of, all the risks and side effects of Lamictal and/or the risks and side
9 effects of the alternative prescribing pattern of Lamictal with Patient A to obtain
10 proper informed consent.

11 PRAYER

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

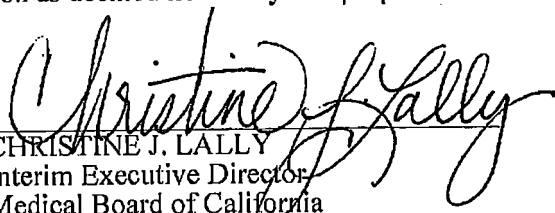
14 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317, issued
15 to Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.;

16 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Christopher Wyke
17 Sangdahl, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

18 3. Ordering Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D., if placed on probation, to
19 pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

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

21
22 DATED: JUN 03 2020


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

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