

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

In the Matter of the Accusation  
Against:

Babar Iqbal, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 104410

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-043525

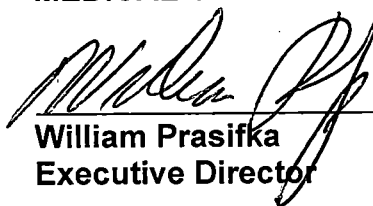
DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 August 10, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED August 10, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Prasifka  
Executive Director

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 JASON J. AHN  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 253172  
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800  
5 San Diego, CA 92101  
P.O. Box 85266  
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266  
Telephone: (619) 738-9433  
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2018-043525

14

**BABAR IQBAL, M.D.  
14902 Dahlquist Road  
Irvine, CA 92604**

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
No. A 104410**

17

18

Respondent.

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

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**PARTIES**

23

1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Jason J. Ahn, Deputy Attorney General.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Steven L. Simas, Esq. I fully understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and fully agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 8-2-21

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BABAR IQBAL, M.D.  
*Respondent*

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Babar Iqbal, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: August 3, 2021

  
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STEVEN L. SIMAS  
*Attorney for Respondent*

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**ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: August 4, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
MATTHEW M. DAVIS  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



JASON J. AHN  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2018-043525**

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 JASON J. AHN  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 253172  
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800  
5 San Diego, CA 92101  
P.O. Box 85266  
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

11

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13

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2018-043525

14

**Babar Iqbal, M.D.**  
14902 Dahlquist Road  
Irvine, CA 92604

ACCUSATION

15

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Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
No. A 104410,

17

Respondent.

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PARTIES

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1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity  
22 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
23 (Board).

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2. On or about June 13, 2008, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
25 Certificate No. A 104410 to Babar Iqbal, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will  
27 expire on December 31, 2021, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

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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  
17 a 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:

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:

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

          “...”

1           6.    Section 2236 of the Code states:

2           “(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications,  
3           functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within  
4           the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction  
5           shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.”

6           “... ”

7           “(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is  
8           deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The  
9           record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred.”

10          7.    California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

11          “For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or  
12          permit pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime  
13          or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or  
14          duties of a person holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice  
15          Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person  
16          holding a license, certificate or permit to perform the functions authorized by the  
17          license, certificate or permit in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or  
18          welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to the following:  
19          Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the  
20          violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of the Medical Practice Act.”

21          8.    Section 810 of the Code states:

22          “(a) It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary  
23          action, including suspension or revocation of a license or certificate, for a health care  
24          professional to do any of the following in connection with his or her professional  
25          activities:

26               “(1) Knowingly present or cause to be presented any false or fraudulent claim  
27               for the payment of a loss under a contract of insurance.

28               “(2) Knowingly prepare, make, or subscribe any writing, with intent to present  
              or use the same, or to allow it to be presented or used in support of any false or  
              fraudulent claim.

              “(b) It shall constitute cause for revocation or suspension of a license or  
              certificate for a health care professional to engage in any conduct prohibited under  
              Section 1871.4 of the Insurance Code or Section 549 or 550 of the Insurance Code.

              “(c)(1) It shall constitute cause for automatic suspension of a license or certificate  
              issued pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 1600), Chapter 5 (commencing  
              with Section 2000), Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), Chapter 7 (commencing  
              with Section 3000), or Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 4000), or pursuant to the  
              Chiropractic Act or the Osteopathic Act, if a licensee or certificate holder has been  
              convicted of any felony involving fraud committed by the licensee or certificate holder in

1 conjunction with providing benefits covered by worker's compensation insurance, or has  
2 been convicted of any felony involving Medi-Cal fraud committed by the licensee or  
3 certificate holder in conjunction with the Medi-Cal program, including the Denti-Cal  
4 element of the Medi-Cal program, pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000),  
5 or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and  
6 Institutions Code. The board shall convene a disciplinary hearing to determine whether or  
not the license or certificate shall be suspended, revoked, or some other disposition shall be  
considered, including, but not limited to, revocation with the opportunity to petition for  
reinstatement, suspension, or other limitations on the license or certificate as the board  
deems appropriate.

7 (2) It shall constitute cause for automatic suspension and for revocation of a license  
8 or certificate issued pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 1600), Chapter 5  
9 (commencing with Section 2000), Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), Chapter 7  
10 (commencing with Section 3000), or Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 4000), or  
11 pursuant to the Chiropractic Act or the Osteopathic Act, if a licensee or certificate holder  
12 has more than one conviction of any felony arising out of separate prosecutions involving  
13 fraud committed by the licensee or certificate holder in conjunction with providing benefits  
14 covered by worker's compensation insurance, or in conjunction with the Medi-Cal program,  
including the Denti-Cal element of the Medi-Cal program pursuant to Chapter 7  
(commencing with Section 14000), or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), of Part  
3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The board shall convene a disciplinary  
hearing to revoke the license or certificate and an order of revocation shall be issued unless  
the board finds mitigating circumstances to order some other disposition.

15 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that paragraph (2) apply to a licensee or  
16 certificate holder who has one or more convictions prior to January 1, 2004, as provided in  
this subdivision.

17 (4) Nothing in this subdivision shall preclude a board from suspending or revoking a  
18 license or certificate pursuant to any other provision of law.

19 (5) "Board," as used in this subdivision, means the Dental Board of California, the  
20 Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, the Board of  
21 Psychology, the State Board of Optometry, the California State Board of Pharmacy, the  
Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

22 (6) "More than one conviction," as used in this subdivision, means that the licensee  
23 or certificate holder has one or more convictions prior to January 1, 2004, and at least one  
24 conviction on or after that date, or the licensee or certificate holder has two or more  
25 convictions on or after January 1, 2004. However, a licensee or certificate holder who has  
one or more convictions prior to January 1, 2004, but who has no convictions and is  
currently licensed or holds a certificate after that date, does not have "more than one  
conviction" for the purposes of this subdivision.

26 (d) As used in this section, health care professional means any person licensed or  
27 certified pursuant to this division, or licensed pursuant to the Osteopathic Initiative Act, or  
28 the Chiropractic Initiative Act.

1 9. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct  
2 which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is  
3 unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an  
4 unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564,  
5 575.)

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Conviction of a Crime Substantially Related to the Qualifications,  
8 Functions, or Duties of a Physician and Surgeon)**

9 10. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 104410 to  
10 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2236, subdivision (a), of  
11 the Code, in that he has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications,  
12 functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

13 11. On or about June 9, 2020, Respondent entered into a plea of guilty in the state criminal  
14 case number RIF1880191, in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside. Specifically,  
15 Respondent entered a plea of guilty to the following counts: 1) Count 3, a violation of Penal Code  
16 sections 182(a)(1)<sup>1</sup> / 503<sup>2</sup>, felony; 2) Count 4, a violation of Penal Code section 550(a)(6)<sup>3</sup>, to wit  
17 Health Net, felony, with a special allegation of violation of Penal Code section 186.11(a)(2)<sup>4</sup>;

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19 <sup>1</sup> Penal Code section 182(a)(1) prohibits, among other things, two or more persons  
20 conspiring to commit any crime.

21 <sup>2</sup> Penal Code section 503 provides: "Embezzlement is the fraudulent appropriation of  
22 property by a person to whom it has been entrusted."

23 <sup>3</sup> Penal Code section 550(a)(6) provides, in relevant part:

24 "(a) It is unlawful to do any of the following, or to aid, abet, solicit, or conspire with any  
25 person to do any of the following:

26 "...  
27 "(6) Knowingly make or cause to be made any false or fraudulent claim for payment of a  
28 health care benefit."

29 <sup>4</sup> Penal Code section 186.11(a)(2) provides: "If the pattern of related felony conduct  
30 involves the taking of, or results in the loss by another person or entity of, more than five hundred  
31 thousand dollars (\$500,000), the additional term of punishment shall be two, three, or five years  
32 in the state prison."

1 3) Count 24, a violation of Penal Code section 530.5(a)<sup>5</sup> to wit, T.G.<sup>6</sup>

2 12. The factual basis for the plea agreement stated, among other things:

3 a) In 2015, Respondent was approached by Dennis Bonavilla to have Respondent's patients  
4 sign up with Free Choice Healthcare Foundation ("Free Choice") for additional insurance policies  
5 to pay for services not covered by the policy they had at the time they entered Respondent's clinic.

6 b) This additional coverage allowed Respondent to complete additional, more expensive  
7 services on his patients that would not have been covered by the insurance they had at the time they  
8 entered Respondent's clinic.

9 c) Respondent provided paperwork to his patients, including I-9s and W-4s, and told them he  
10 could get them free insurance through Free Choice. The paperwork provided Respondent's  
11 patients' names, dates of birth, addresses, and social security numbers to Free Choice, in order to  
12 sign them up as employees of fictitious companies.

13 d) Once the paperwork was completed, Respondent gave the patients' information to Free  
14 Choice liaison Dennis Bonavilla to sign them up for the fraudulent policies. Respondent did not  
15 explain to the patients that they would be signing up as fake employees of fictitious companies.  
16 Respondent did not tell them their existing insurance coverage or disability benefits could be  
17 affected. One of those patients was T.G.

18 e) Respondent waived the costs required from patients, including deductibles and copays, in  
19 order to induce the patients to continue to seek treatment.

20 f) Once Respondent's patients were covered, Respondent billed their fraudulent insurance  
21 policy for the services he provided and sent 35% of what he collected from the insurance company  
22

23 <sup>5</sup> Penal Code section 530.5(a) provides:

24 "Every person who willfully obtain personal identifying information, as defined in  
25 subdivision (b) of section 530.55, of another person, and uses that information for  
26 any unlawful purpose, including to obtain, or attempt to obtain, credit, goods,  
27 services, real property, or medical information without the consent of that person,  
28 is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction therefor, shall be punished by a  
fine, by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by both a fine and  
imprisonment, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170."

<sup>6</sup> Initials are used in order to protect patient privacy.

1 back to Free Choice.

2 g) Beginning in 2015, Respondent also agreed to write prescriptions to be filled at a  
3 compounding pharmacy selected by Dennis Bonavilla. Respondent signed a consulting agreement  
4 with the pharmacy under which he would be paid \$2,000 or more per month as long as he continued  
5 writing prescriptions. Respondent never received any money for the prescriptions he wrote. Most  
6 of the prescriptions involved were for patients who were provided with Health Net policies through  
7 Free Choice.

8 h) Between January 1, 2015 and July 30, 2017, Respondent knowingly, and with specific  
9 intent, aided and abetted Free Choice Healthcare Foundation's insurance fraud scheme through his  
10 clinic, Riverside Regional Surgery Center.

11 13. As part of his criminal sentence in case number RIF1880191, in the Superior Court of  
12 California, County of Riverside, Respondent was sentenced to two (2) years in state prison, a total  
13 restitution amount of \$2,799,550.41, and various fines and fees.

14 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

15 **(Dishonesty or Corruption)**

16 14. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
17 A 104401 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,  
18 subdivision (e), of the Code, in that he has committed an act or acts of dishonesty or corruption,  
19 as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 13, above, which are hereby incorporated by  
20 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

21 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

22 **(Revocation or Suspension of License Based on Insurance Fraud and Worker's  
23 Compensation Fraud)**

24 15. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
25 A 104401 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 810,  
26 subdivisions (b) and (c)(1), of the Code, in that he has committed insurance fraud and worker's  
27 compensation fraud, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 13, above, which are  
28 hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.



1 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

3 16. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
4 A 104401 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, of the  
5 Code, in that he has engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical  
6 profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical  
7 profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly  
8 alleged in paragraphs 9 through 15, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and  
9 realleged as if fully set forth herein.

10 **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

11 17. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Babar  
12 Iqbal, M.D., Complainant alleges that effective on or about August 19, 2020, in a prior  
13 disciplinary action titled In the Matter of the Accusation Against Babar Iqbal, M.D. before the  
14 Medical Board of California, in Case Number 800-2017-030760, Respondent's license was  
15 publicly reprimanded for Respondent's repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate  
16 or accurate records. That Decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set  
17 forth herein.

18 **PRAYER**

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

21 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 104410, issued  
22 to Babar Iqbal, M.D.;

23 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Babar Iqbal, M.D.'s authority to  
24 supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

25 3. Ordering Babar Iqbal, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of  
26 probation monitoring; and


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

DATED: JUL 01 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM PRASTFKA  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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