

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

In the Matter of the Accusation and
Petition to Revoke Probation Against:

Kourosh Parsapour, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 79856

Respondent.

Case No.: 800-2019-061303

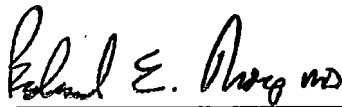
DECISION

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 February 4, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED: January 6, 2022.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



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

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
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9 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
12

13 In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to
Revoke Probation Against:

14 **KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D.**
15 **65 Enterprise**
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-2705

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
17 **No. A 79856,**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2019-061303

OAH No. 2021040598

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
25 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Peggie Bradford Tarwater,
26 Deputy Attorney General.

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

3 **CULPABILITY**

4 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
5 and Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2019-061303, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause
6 for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

7 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case
8 relating to the charges in the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, and that Respondent
9 hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

10 11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Certificate is subject to discipline, and he
11 agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order
12 below.

13 **CONTINGENCY**

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

24 13. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
25 probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the
26 Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation and Petition to Revoke
27 Probation No. 800-2019-061303 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent
28 for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in

1 the State of California.

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

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

8 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

9 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 79856 issued
10 to Respondent Kourosch Parsapour, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
11 Respondent is placed on probation for eight (8) years on the following terms and conditions. This
12 Order is to run concurrent with the Disciplinary Order in Case No. 800-2016-029031.

13 1. **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - ABSTAIN FROM USE.** Respondent shall abstain
14 completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the
15 California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, dangerous drugs as defined by Business and
16 Professions Code section 4022, and any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not
17 apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent by another practitioner for a bona fide
18 illness or condition.

19 Within 15 calendar days of receiving any lawfully prescribed medications, Respondent
20 shall notify the Board or its designee of the: issuing practitioner's name, address, and telephone
21 number; medication name, strength, and quantity; and issuing pharmacy name, address, and
22 telephone number.

23 2. **ALCOHOL - ABSTAIN FROM USE.** Respondent shall abstain completely from the
24 use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

25 3. **EDUCATION COURSE.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this
26 Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee
27 for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours
28 per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at

1 correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The
2 educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to
3 the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the
4 completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
5 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65
6 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

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

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

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

25 5. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE (COURSE COMPLETED). Within 60
26 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical
27 record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the
28 approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider

1 may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom
2 component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment.
3 Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of
4 enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
5 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

11 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
12 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
13 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

14 6. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
15 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that
16 meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1358.1. Respondent
17 shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any
18 information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully
19 complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after
20 Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the
21 time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom
22 component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
23 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

24 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
25 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
26 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have
27 been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of
28 this Decision.

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

4 7. PROHIBITED PRACTICE. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from
5 performing services relating to the recommendation of marijuana and from recommending
6 marijuana. After the effective date of this Decision, all patients being treated by Respondent shall
7 be notified that the Respondent is prohibited from performing services relating to the
8 recommendation of marijuana and from recommending marijuana.

9 Respondent shall maintain a log of all patients to whom the required oral notification was
10 made. The log shall contain the: 1) patient's name, address and phone number; 2) patient's
11 medical record number, if available; 3) the full name of the person making the notification; 4) the
12 date the notification was made; and 5) a description of the notification given. Respondent shall
13 keep this log in a separate file or ledger, in chronological order, shall make the log available for
14 immediate inspection and copying on the premises at all times during business hours by the Board
15 or its designee, and shall retain the log for the entire term of probation.

16 8. PSYCHOTHERAPY. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision,
17 Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval the name and
18 qualifications of a California-licensed board certified psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist who
19 has a doctoral degree in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the
20 diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders. Upon approval, Respondent shall
21 undergo and continue psychotherapy treatment, including any modifications to the frequency of
22 psychotherapy, until the Board or its designee deems that no further psychotherapy is necessary.

23 The psychotherapist shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee
24 and any other information the psychotherapist deems relevant and shall furnish a written
25 evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall cooperate in providing the
26 psychotherapist with any information and documents that the psychotherapist may deem
27 pertinent.

28 Respondent shall have the treating psychotherapist submit quarterly status reports to the

1 Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may require Respondent to undergo psychiatric
2 evaluations by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist. If, prior to the completion of
3 probation, Respondent is found to be mentally unfit to resume the practice of medicine without
4 restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over Respondent's license and the
5 period of probation shall be extended until the Board determines that Respondent is mentally fit
6 to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions.

7 9. CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS: Within thirty (30)
8 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter as
9 may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a clinical
10 diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary, by a Board-appointed
11 board certified physician and surgeon. The examiner shall consider any information provided by
12 the Board or its designee and any other information he or she deems relevant, and shall furnish a
13 written evaluation report to the Board or its designee.

14 The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted by a licensed physician and surgeon
15 who holds a valid, unrestricted license, has three (3) years' experience in providing evaluations of
16 physicians and surgeons with substance abuse disorders, and is approved by the Board or its
17 designee. The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with acceptable
18 professional standards for conducting substance abuse clinical diagnostic evaluations. The
19 evaluator shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with
20 Respondent within the last five (5) years. The evaluator shall provide an objective, unbiased, and
21 independent evaluation. The clinical diagnostic evaluation report shall set forth, in the
22 evaluator's opinion, whether Respondent has a substance abuse problem, whether Respondent is a
23 threat to himself or others, and recommendations for substance abuse treatment, practice
24 restrictions, or other recommendations related to Respondent's rehabilitation and ability to
25 practice safely. If the evaluator determines during the evaluation process that Respondent is a
26 threat to himself or others, the evaluator shall notify the Board within twenty-four (24) hours of
27 such a determination.

28 In formulating his or her opinion as to whether Respondent is safe to return to either part-

1 time or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations should be imposed, including
2 participation in an inpatient or outpatient treatment program, the evaluator shall consider the
3 following factors: Respondent's license type; Respondent's history; Respondent's documented
4 length of sobriety (i.e., length of time that has elapsed since Respondent's last substance use);
5 Respondent's scope and pattern of substance abuse; Respondent's treatment history, medical
6 history and current medical condition; the nature, duration and severity of Respondent's
7 substance abuse problem or problems; and whether Respondent is a threat to himself or the
8 public.

9 For all clinical diagnostic evaluations, a final written report shall be provided to the Board
10 no later than ten (10) days from the date the evaluator is assigned the matter. If the evaluator
11 requests additional information or time to complete the evaluation and report, an extension may
12 be granted, but shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the date the evaluator was originally
13 assigned the matter.

14 The Board shall review the clinical diagnostic evaluation report within five (5) business
15 days of receipt to determine whether Respondent is safe to return to either part-time or full-time
16 practice and what restrictions or recommendations shall be imposed on Respondent based on the
17 recommendations made by the evaluator. Respondent shall not be returned to practice until he or
18 she has at least thirty (30) days of negative biological fluid tests or biological fluid tests indicating
19 that he or she has not used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself a prohibited
20 substance, as defined in section 1361.51, subdivision (e), of Title 16 of the California Code of
21 Regulations.

22 Clinical diagnostic evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of this Decision shall
23 not be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. The cost of the clinical diagnostic
24 evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary by the examiner, the Board or its
25 designee, shall be borne by the licensee.

26 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified by the Board or its
27 designee that he or she is fit to practice medicine safely. The period of time that Respondent is
28 not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

1 Respondent shall undergo biological fluid testing as required in this Decision at least two (2)
2 times per week while awaiting the notification from the Board if he or she is fit to practice
3 medicine safely.

4 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the examiner
5 conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation within fifteen (15) calendar days after being notified
6 by the Board or its designee.

7 10. NOTICE OF EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR INFORMATION. Within seven (7)
8 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall provide to the Board the names,
9 physical addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all employers and
10 supervisors. Respondent shall also provide specific, written consent for the Board, Respondent's
11 worksite monitor, and Respondent's employers and supervisors to communicate regarding
12 Respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring.

13 For purposes of this section, "supervisors" shall include the Chief of Staff and Health or
14 Well Being Committee Chair, or equivalent, if applicable, when the Respondent has medical staff
15 privileges.

16 11. BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING. Respondent shall immediately submit to
17 biological fluid testing, at Respondent's expense, upon request of the Board or its designee.
18 "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair
19 follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall
20 make daily contact with the Board or its designee to determine whether biological fluid testing is
21 required. Respondent shall be tested on the date of the notification as directed by the Board or its
22 designee. The Board may order a Respondent to undergo a biological fluid test on any day, at
23 any time, including weekends and holidays. Except when testing on a specific date as ordered by
24 the Board or its designee, the scheduling of biological fluid testing shall be done on a random
25 basis. The cost of biological fluid testing shall be borne by the Respondent.

26 During the first year of probation, Respondent shall be subject to 52 to 104 random tests.
27 During the second year of probation and for the duration of the probationary term, up to five (5)
28 years, Respondent shall be subject to 36 to 104 random tests per year. Only if there has been no

1 positive biological fluid tests in the previous five (5) consecutive years of probation, may testing
2 be reduced to one (1) time per month. Nothing precludes the Board from increasing the number
3 of random tests to the first-year level of frequency for any reason.

4 Prior to practicing medicine, Respondent shall contract with a laboratory or service,
5 approved in advance by the Board or its designee, that will conduct random, unannounced,
6 observed, biological fluid testing and meets all of the following standards:

7 (a) Its specimen collectors are either certified by the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry
8 Association or have completed the training required to serve as a collector for the United
9 States Department of Transportation.

10 (b) Its specimen collectors conform to the current United States Department of
11 Transportation Specimen Collection Guidelines.

12 (c) Its testing locations comply with the Urine Specimen Collection Guidelines published
13 by the United States Department of Transportation without regard to the type of test
14 administered.

15 (d) Its specimen collectors observe the collection of testing specimens.

16 (e) Its laboratories are certified and accredited by the United States Department of Health
17 and Human Services.

18 (f) Its testing locations shall submit a specimen to a laboratory within one (1) business day
19 of receipt and all specimens collected shall be handled pursuant to chain of custody
20 procedures. The laboratory shall process and analyze the specimens and provide legally
21 defensible test results to the Board within seven (7) business days of receipt of the
22 specimen. The Board will be notified of non-negative results within one (1) business day
23 and will be notified of negative test results within seven (7) business days.

24 (g) Its testing locations possess all the materials, equipment, and technical expertise
25 necessary in order to test Respondent on any day of the week.

26 (h) Its testing locations are able to scientifically test for urine, blood, and hair specimens
27 for the detection of alcohol and illegal and controlled substances.

28 (i) It maintains testing sites located throughout California.

1 (j) It maintains an automated 24-hour toll-free telephone system and/or a secure on-line
2 computer database that allows the Respondent to check in daily for testing.

3 (k) It maintains a secure, HIPAA-compliant website or computer system that allows staff
4 access to drug test results and compliance reporting information that is available 24 hours a
5 day.

6 (l) It employs or contracts with toxicologists that are licensed physicians and have
7 knowledge of substance abuse disorders and the appropriate medical training to interpret
8 and evaluate laboratory biological fluid test results, medical histories, and any other
9 information relevant to biomedical information.

10 (m) It will not consider a toxicology screen to be negative if a positive result is obtained
11 while practicing, even if the Respondent holds a valid prescription for the substance.

12 Prior to changing testing locations for any reason, including during vacation or other travel,
13 alternative testing locations must be approved by the Board and meet the requirements above.

14 The contract shall require that the laboratory directly notify the Board or its designee of
15 non-negative results within one (1) business day and negative test results within seven (7)
16 business days of the results becoming available. Respondent shall maintain this laboratory or
17 service contract during the period of probation.

18 A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be received in evidence in any
19 proceedings between the Board and Respondent.

20 If a biological fluid test result indicates Respondent has used, consumed, ingested, or
21 administered to himself a prohibited substance, the Board shall order Respondent to cease
22 practice and instruct Respondent to leave any place of work where Respondent is practicing
23 medicine or providing medical services. The Board shall immediately notify all of Respondent's
24 employers, supervisors and work monitors, if any, that Respondent may not practice medicine or
25 provide medical services while the cease-practice order is in effect.

26 A biological fluid test will not be considered negative if a positive result is obtained while
27 practicing, even if the practitioner holds a valid prescription for the substance. If no prohibited
28 substance use exists, the Board shall lift the cease-practice order within one (1) business day.

1 After the issuance of a cease-practice order, the Board shall determine whether the positive
2 biological fluid test is in fact evidence of prohibited substance use by consulting with the
3 specimen collector and the laboratory, communicating with the licensee, his treating physician(s),
4 other health care provider, or group facilitator, as applicable.

5 For purposes of this condition, the terms "biological fluid testing" and "testing" mean the
6 acquisition and chemical analysis of a Respondent's urine, blood, breath, or hair.

7 For purposes of this condition, the term "prohibited substance" means an illegal drug, a
8 lawful drug not prescribed or ordered by an appropriately licensed health care provider for use by
9 Respondent and approved by the Board, alcohol, or any other substance the Respondent has been
10 instructed by the Board not to use, consume, ingest, or administer to himself.

11 If the Board confirms that a positive biological fluid test is evidence of use of a prohibited
12 substance, Respondent has committed a major violation, as defined in section 1361.52(a), and the
13 Board shall impose any or all of the consequences set forth in section 1361.52(b), in addition to
14 any other terms or conditions the Board determines are necessary for public protection or to
15 enhance Respondent's rehabilitation.

16 12. SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. Within thirty (30) days of
17 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee, for its
18 prior approval, the name of a substance abuse support group which he or she shall attend for the
19 duration of probation. Respondent shall attend substance abuse support group meetings at least
20 once per week, or as ordered by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall pay all substance
21 abuse support group meeting costs.

22 The facilitator of the substance abuse support group meeting shall have a minimum of three
23 (3) years of experience in the treatment and rehabilitation of substance abuse, and shall be
24 licensed or certified by the state or nationally certified organizations. The facilitator shall not
25 have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with Respondent within the
26 last five (5) years. Respondent's previous participation in a substance abuse group support
27 meeting led by the same facilitator does not constitute a prohibited current or former financial,
28 personal, or business relationship.

1 The facilitator shall provide a signed document to the Board or its designee showing
2 Respondent's name, the group name, the date and location of the meeting, Respondent's
3 attendance, and Respondent's level of participation and progress. The facilitator shall report any
4 unexcused absence by Respondent from any substance abuse support group meeting to the Board,
5 or its designee, within twenty-four (24) hours of the unexcused absence.

6 13. WORKSITE MONITOR FOR SUBSTANCE-ABUSING LICENSEE. Within thirty
7 (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or
8 its designee for prior approval as a worksite monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more
9 licensed physician and surgeon, other licensed health care professional if no physician and
10 surgeon is available, or, as approved by the Board or its designee, a person in a position of
11 authority who is capable of monitoring the Respondent at work.

12 The worksite monitor shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or familial
13 relationship with Respondent, or any other relationship that could reasonably be expected to
14 compromise the ability of the monitor to render impartial and unbiased reports to the Board or its
15 designee. If it is impractical for anyone but Respondent's employer to serve as the worksite
16 monitor, this requirement may be waived by the Board or its designee, however, under no
17 circumstances shall Respondent's worksite monitor be an employee or supervisee of the licensee.

18 The worksite monitor shall have an active unrestricted license with no disciplinary action
19 within the last five (5) years, and shall sign an affirmation that he or she has reviewed the terms
20 and conditions of Respondent's disciplinary order and agrees to monitor Respondent as set forth
21 by the Board or its designee.

22 Respondent shall pay all worksite monitoring costs.

23 The worksite monitor shall have face-to-face contact with Respondent in the work
24 environment on as frequent a basis as determined by the Board or its designee, but not less than
25 once per week; interview other staff in the office regarding Respondent's behavior, if requested
26 by the Board or its designee; and review Respondent's work attendance.

27 The worksite monitor shall verbally report any suspected substance abuse to the Board and
28 Respondent's employer or supervisor within one (1) business day of occurrence. If the suspected

1 substance abuse does not occur during the Board's normal business hours, the verbal report shall
2 be made to the Board or its designee within one (1) hour of the next business day. A written
3 report that includes the date, time, and location of the suspected abuse; Respondent's actions; and
4 any other information deemed important by the worksite monitor shall be submitted to the Board
5 or its designee within 48 hours of the occurrence.

6 The worksite monitor shall complete and submit a written report monthly or as directed by
7 the Board or its designee which shall include the following: (1) Respondent's name and
8 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate number; (2) the worksite monitor's name and signature; (3)
9 the worksite monitor's license number, if applicable; (4) the location or location(s) of the
10 worksite; (5) the dates Respondent had face-to-face contact with the worksite monitor; (6) the
11 names of worksite staff interviewed, if applicable; (7) a report of Respondent's work attendance;
12 (8) any change in Respondent's behavior and/or personal habits; and (9) any indicators that can
13 lead to suspected substance abuse by Respondent. Respondent shall complete any required
14 consent forms and execute agreements with the approved worksite monitor and the Board, or its
15 designee, authorizing the Board, or its designee, and worksite monitor to exchange information.

16 If the worksite monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within five (5)
17 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior
18 approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that
19 responsibility within fifteen (15) calendar days. If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a
20 replacement monitor within sixty (60) calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the
21 monitor, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the
22 practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall
23 cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring
24 responsibility.

25 **14. VIOLATION OF PROBATION CONDITION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSING**
26 **LICENSEES.** Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of
27 probation.

28 A. If Respondent commits a major violation of probation as defined by section

1 1361.52, subdivision (a), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take
2 one or more of the following actions:

3 (1) Issue an immediate cease-practice order and order Respondent to undergo a clinical
4 diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of
5 Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at Respondent's expense. The cease-practice
6 order issued by the Board or its designee shall state that Respondent must test negative for at least
7 a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice. For
8 purposes of determining the length of time a Respondent must test negative while undergoing
9 continuous biological fluid testing following issuance of a cease-practice order, a month is
10 defined as thirty calendar (30) days. Respondent may not resume the practice of medicine until
11 notified in writing by the Board or its designee that he or she may do so.

12 (2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

13 (3) Refer Respondent for further disciplinary action, such as suspension, revocation, or
14 other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

15 B. If Respondent commits a minor violation of probation as defined by section
16 1361.52, subdivision (c), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take
17 one or more of the following actions:

18 (1) Issue a cease-practice order;

19 (2) Order practice limitations;

20 (3) Order or increase supervision of Respondent;

21 (4) Order increased documentation;

22 (5) Issue a citation and fine, or a warning letter;

23 (6) Order Respondent to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in
24 accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of Title 16 of the California Code of
25 Regulations, at Respondent's expense;

26 (7) Take any other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

27 C. Nothing in this Decision shall be considered a limitation on the Board's authority
28 to revoke Respondent's probation if he or she has violated any term or condition of probation. If

1 Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the
2 opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was
3 stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed
4 against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter
5 is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

6 15. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the
7 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the
8 Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to
9 Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine,
10 including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief
11 Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to
12 Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15
13 calendar days.

14 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

15 16. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
16 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
17 advanced practice nurses.

18 17. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
19 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
20 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

21 18. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
22 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
23 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

24 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end
25 of the preceding quarter.

26 19. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

27 Compliance with Probation Unit

28 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

1 Address Changes

2 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and
3 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such
4 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no
5 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business
6 and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

7 Place of Practice

8 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place
9 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed
10 facility.

11 License Renewal

12 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
13 license.

14 Travel or Residence Outside California

15 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
16 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty
17 (30) calendar days.

18 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
19 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
20 departure and return.

21 20. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be
22 available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the
23 probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

24 21. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or
25 its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than
26 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is
27 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and
28 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct

1 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If
2 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall
3 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training
4 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-
5 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of
6 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while
7 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be
8 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
9 period of non-practice.

10 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar
11 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards' Special
12 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program
13 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model
14 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

15 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

16 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

17 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
18 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
19 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
20 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
21 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

22 22. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
23 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
24 completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall
25 be fully restored.

26 23. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition
27 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the
28 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and

1 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke
2 Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the
3 Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall
4 be extended until the matter is final.

5 24. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
6 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
7 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his license. The
8 Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
9 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
10 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
11 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
12 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
13 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
14 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

15 25. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated
16 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which
17 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
18 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar
19 year.

20 26. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
21 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care
22 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
23 Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2019-061303 shall be deemed to be true,
24 correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other
25 proceeding seeking to deny or restrict license.

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ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED: 10/15/2021 
KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D.
Respondent

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

DATED: 10/15/2021 
LINDSA M. JOHNSON
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: _____

Respectfully submitted,
ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

LA2020600308

1 ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
3 discussed it with my attorney, Lindsay M. Johnson. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
4 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and
5 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
6 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

7
8 DATED: _____
9 KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D.
10 *Respondent*

11 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Kourosch Parsapour, M.D. the terms and
12 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
13 I approve its form and content.

14 DATED: _____
15 LINDSAY M. JOHNSON
16 *Attorney for Respondent*

17 ENDORSEMENT

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

20 DATED: October 15, 2021

21 Respectfully submitted,
22 ROB BONTA
23 Attorney General of California
24 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
25 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
26 **Peggie B.**
27 **Tarwater**
28 PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

Digitally signed by Peggie B.
Tarwater
Date: 2021.10.15 13:55:22
-07'00'

LA2020600308

Exhibit A

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 169127
California Department of Justice
5 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
6 Telephone: (213) 269-6448
Facsimile: (916) 731-2117
7 E-mail: Peggie.Tarwater@doj.ca.gov
Attorneys for Complainant

8
9
10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12

13
14 In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to
Revoke Probation Against:

Case No. 800-2019-061303

15 **Kourosch Parsapour, M.D.**
16 **400 Spectrum Center Drive**
Suite 1900
17 **Irvine, CA 92618-4934**

**ACCUSATION AND PETITION TO
REVOKE PROBATION**

18 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 79856,

19 Respondent.

20
21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about July 17, 2002, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate Number A 79856 to Kourosch Parsapour, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
28 herein and will expire on September 30, 2021, unless renewed.

1 DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

2 3. In a disciplinary action titled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Kourosh*
3 *Parsapour, M.D.*, Case No. 800-2016-029031, the Board issued a Decision, effective July 17,
4 2020, revoking Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. However, the revocation was
5 stayed and Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was placed on probation for a
6 period of four years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of the Decision is attached as
7 Exhibit A.

8 JURISDICTION

9 4. This Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Board, under
10 the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions
11 Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

12 5. Section 2227 of the Code states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 6. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 14,
2 Violation of Probation Condition, stated:

3 Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of
4 probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving
5 Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry
6 out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke
7 Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during
8 probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and
9 the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

7
8 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

9 7. Section 2234 of the Code, states, in pertinent part:

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

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

15 8. Section 2238 of the Code states:

16 A violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or
17 regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances
18 constitutes unprofessional conduct.

19 9. Section 2239 of the Code states:

20 (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any
21 controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section
22 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous
23 or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that
24 such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than
25 one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or
26 self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any
27 combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the
28 conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

(b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo
contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. The
Medical Board may order discipline of the licensee in accordance with Section 2227
or the Medical Board may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has
elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order
granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a
subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing
such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or
setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint,
information, or indictment.

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10. Section 820 of the Code states:

Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

11. Section 821 of the Code provides that the licentiate's failure to comply with an order issued under section 820 shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licentiate's certificate or license.

12. Section 822 of the Code states:

If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- (a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- (b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- (c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated.

DRUG LAWS

13. Health and Safety Code section 11550, subdivision (a) provides:

A person shall not use, or be under the influence of any controlled substance that is (1) specified in subdivision (b), (c), or (e), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), (21), (22), or (23) of subdivision (d) of Section 11054, specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 11055, or specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (d) or in paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) of Section 11055, or (2) a narcotic drug classified in Schedule III, IV, or V, except when administered by or under the direction of a person licensed by the state to dispense, prescribe, or administer controlled substances. It shall be the burden of the defense to show that it comes within the exception. A person convicted of violating this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced to serve a term of not more than one year in a county jail. The court may also place a person convicted under this subdivision on probation for a period not to exceed five years.

1 14. Amphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety
2 Code section 11055, subdivision (d)(1).

3 15. Methamphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and
4 Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (d)(2).

5 **PROBATIONARY CONDITIONS**

6 16. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 8 stated:

7 Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the
8 practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

9 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10 17. On October 10, 2019, the Board received a complaint in which the complainant
11 alleged, *inter alia*, that she had been engaged in a romantic relationship with Respondent, during
12 which time Respondent repeatedly used methamphetamine.

13 18. On March 25, 2020, Respondent presented at the Department of Consumer Affairs,
14 Division of Investigation, Health Quality Enforcement Unit office in Tustin, California (HQIU) to
15 undergo a voluntary urine screening test. A urine sample was secured for testing.

16 19. Testing of the urine sample revealed the presence of amphetamine and
17 methamphetamine.

18 20. On or about October 5, 2020, Respondent signed a voluntary agreement to undergo a
19 physical examination.

20 21. On or about October 5, 2020, Respondent signed a voluntary agreement for a mental
21 examination.

22 22. Included in the language of the voluntary agreement for each examination is the
23 following language:

24 I understand and agree that my failure to comply with this agreement either
25 by refusing or failing to submit to the examination or any part thereof, or by refusing
26 or failing to cooperate with the examiner shall constitute grounds for disciplinary
action against my license pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 821.

27 ///

28

1 23. On or about November 24, 2020, Respondent underwent a comprehensive psychiatric
2 evaluation with Dr. N.L.¹ As part of the examination, Respondent underwent urine drug and
3 alcohol testing, the results of which were positive for methamphetamine and opiates.²

4 24. Dr. N.L. determined that Respondent was not able to practice medicine safely without
5 restriction due to a substance abuse disorder and that Respondent had "stressors," placing him at
6 increased risk of substance abuse.

7 25. Respondent was scheduled to undergo a physical examination with Dr. L.D. on
8 November 23, 2020. He failed to appear for his examination on the appointed date.

9 26. Respondent's physical examination was rescheduled for November 30, 2020.
10 Respondent again failed to appear for his examination on the appointed date.

11 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

12 (Unprofessional Conduct - Violation of Statute Regulating Drugs)

13 27. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2234, subdivision (a), and
14 2238 of the Code in that he violated drug laws by using controlled substances, amphetamine
15 and/or methamphetamine, in violation Health and Safety Code section 11550, subdivision (a), and
16 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivisions (d)(1) and (d)(2). The circumstances are as
17 follows:

18 28. The allegations of paragraphs 17 through 24 are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

19 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 (Unprofessional Conduct - Excessive Use of Drugs)

21 29. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2234, subdivision (a), and
22 2239 of the Code in that he used, prescribed, or administered to himself amphetamine and/or
23 methamphetamine, controlled substances under Health and Safety Code section 11055,
24 subdivisions (d)(1) and (d)(2). The circumstances are as follows:

25 30. The allegations of paragraphs 17 through 24 are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

26 _____
27 ¹ Initials are used for the experts retained to conduct evaluations of Respondent. The
identities of these experts are known to Respondent

28 ² Respondent was prescribed hydrocodone, an opioid, in March 2020.

1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Failure to Comply with Agreement for Physical Examination)

3 31. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 821 of the Code in that he
4 failed to comply with an agreement to undergo a physical examination to determine whether his
5 ability to practice medicine safely is impaired due to physical illness. The circumstances are as
6 follows:

7 32. The allegations of paragraphs 17 through 22 and 25 through 26 are incorporated here
8 as if fully set forth.

9 33. Respondent failed to appear for his scheduled physical examination as required by his
10 voluntary agreement to do so, and failure constitutes grounds for the suspension or revocation of
11 his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate pursuant to section 821 of the Code.

12 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

13 (Inability to Practice Medicine Safely)

14 34. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 822 in that he is unable to
15 practice medicine safely. The circumstances are as follows:

16 35. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 17 through 26 are incorporated here as if fully
17 set forth.

18 36. Respondent underwent a comprehensive psychiatric examination, the results of which
19 demonstrated that he is unable to practice medicine safely.

20 **CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION**

21 (Obey all Laws)

22 Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation
23 Condition 8. The facts and circumstances regarding this violation are as follows:

24 37. The allegations of paragraphs 17 through 26 are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

25 38. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline are incorporated here as if fully set
26 forth.

27 39. The allegations of the Second Cause for Discipline are incorporated here as if fully
28 set forth.

1 40. The allegations of the Third Cause for Discipline are incorporated here as if fully set
2 forth.

3 41. The allegations of the Fourth Cause for Discipline are incorporated here as if fully set
4 forth.

5
6 **PRAYER**

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

9 1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Medical Board of California in Case
10 No. 800-2016-029031 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking
11 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 79856 issued to Kourosch Parsapour, M.D.;

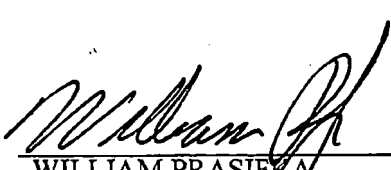
12 2. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 79856, issued to
13 Kourosch Parsapour, M.D.;

14 3. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Kourosch Parsapour, M.D.'s authority to
15 supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code, and advanced practice
16 nurses;

17 4. If placed on probation, ordering Kourosch Parsapour, M.D. to pay the Board the costs
18 of probation monitoring;

19 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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23 DATED: **FEB 16 2021**



WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Medical Board of California Case No. 800-2016-029031

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

In the Matter of the First Amended
Accusation Against:

Kourosh Parsapour, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
License No. A79856

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2016-029031

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 July 17, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED: June 19, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair
Panel B

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 169127
California Department of Justice
5 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
6 Telephone: (213) 269-6448
Facsimile: (916) 731-2117
7 E-mail: Peggie.Tarwater@doj.ca.gov
Attorneys for Complainant
8

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
Against:

14 KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D. /
15 400 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 900
Irvine, CA 92618-4934

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
17 No. A 79856,

18 Respondent.
19

Case No. 800-2016-029031

OAH No. 2019090345

20 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND**
21 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical
25 Board of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is
26 represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by
Peggie Bradford Tarwater, Deputy Attorney General.

27 ///

28 ///

1 2. Respondent Kourosh Parsapour, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding
2 by attorney Lindsay M. Johnson, whose address is: 5000 Birch Street, Suite 7000, Newport
3 Beach, California 92660-8151.

4 3. On July 17, 2002, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A
5 79856 to Kourosh Parsapour, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was
6 in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation
7 No. 800-2016-029031, and will expire on September 30, 2021, unless renewed.

8 JURISDICTION

9 4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-029031 was filed before the Board, and is
10 currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily
11 required documents were properly served on Respondent on January 23, 2020. Respondent
12 timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-029031 is attached as Exhibit A.

14 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

15 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
16 charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-029031. Respondent has
17 also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated
18 Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

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

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

28 ///

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in First Amended
3 Accusation No. 800-2016-029031, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline
4 upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

5 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of
6 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual
7 basis for the charges in the First Amended Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his
8 right to contest those charges.

9 11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
10 probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and
11 allegations contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-029031 shall be deemed true,
12 correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding.

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

16 CONTINGENCY

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

27 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
28 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile

1 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

2 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
3 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following
4 Disciplinary Order:

5 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

6 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 79856 issued
7 to Respondent Kourosh Parsapour, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
8 Respondent is placed on probation for four years on the following terms and conditions.

9 1. **EDUCATION COURSE.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this
10 Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee
11 for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours
12 per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at
13 correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The
14 educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to
15 the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the
16 completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
17 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65
18 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

19 2. **PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective
20 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in prescribing practices approved in
21 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider
22 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.
23 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course
24 not later than six months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully
25 complete any other component of the course within one year of enrollment. The prescribing
26 practices course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the CME
27 requirements for renewal of licensure.

28 A prescribing practices course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the First

1 Amended Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of
2 the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would
3 have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date
4 of this Decision.

5 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
6 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
7 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

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

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

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

25 4. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
26 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that
27 meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1358.1. Respondent
28 shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any

1 information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully
2 complete the classroom component of the program not later than six months after Respondent's
3 initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified
4 by the program, but no later than one year after attending the classroom component. The
5 professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the CME
6 requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

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

15 5. PROHIBITED PRACTICE. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from
16 performing services relating to the recommendation of marijuana and from recommending
17 marijuana. After the effective date of this Decision, all patients being treated by Respondent shall
18 be notified that the Respondent is prohibited from performing services relating to the
19 recommendation of marijuana and from recommending marijuana.

20 Respondent shall maintain a log of all patients to whom the required oral notification was
21 made. The log shall contain the: 1) patient's name, address and phone number; 2) patient's
22 medical record number, if available; 3) the full name of the person making the notification; 4) the
23 date the notification was made; and 5) a description of the notification given. Respondent shall
24 keep this log in a separate file or ledger, in chronological order, shall make the log available for
25 immediate inspection and copying on the premises at all times during business hours by the Board
26 or its designee, and shall retain the log for the entire term of probation.

27 6. NOTIFICATION. Within seven days of the effective date of this Decision, the
28 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and First Amended Accusation to the Chief

1 of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are
2 extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of
3 medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the
4 Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage
5 to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within
6 15 calendar days.

7 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

8 7. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
9 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
10 advanced practice nurses.

11 8. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
12 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
13 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

14 9. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
15 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
16 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

17 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end
18 of the preceding quarter.

19 10. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

20 Compliance with Probation Unit

21 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

22 Address Changes

23 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and
24 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such
25 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no
26 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business
27 and Professions Code section 2021(b).

28 ///

1 Place of Practice

2 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place
3 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed
4 facility.

5 License Renewal

6 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
7 license.

8 Travel or Residence Outside California

9 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
10 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty
11 (30) calendar days.

12 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
13 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
14 departure and return.

15 11. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be
16 available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the
17 probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

18 12. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or
19 its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than
20 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is
21 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and
22 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct
23 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If
24 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall
25 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training
26 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-
27 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of
28 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while

1 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be
2 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
3 period of non-practice.

4 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar
5 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special
6 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program
7 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model
8 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

9 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two years.

10 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

11 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
12 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
13 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
14 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
15 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

16 13. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
17 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
18 completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall
19 be fully restored.

20 14. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition
21 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the
22 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
23 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke
24 Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the
25 Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall
26 be extended until the matter is final.

27 15. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
28 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy

1 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
2 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
3 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
4 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
5 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
6 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
7 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
8 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

9 16. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated
10 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which
11 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
12 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar
13 year.

14 ACCEPTANCE

15 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
16 discussed it with my attorney, Lindsay M. Johnson. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
17 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and
18 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
19 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

20
21 DATED: 2/21/2020 
22 KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D.
Respondent

23 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Kouros Parsapour, M.D. the terms and
24 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
25 I approve its form and content.

26 DATED: 02/21/2020 
27 LINDSAY M. JOHNSON
Attorney for Respondent

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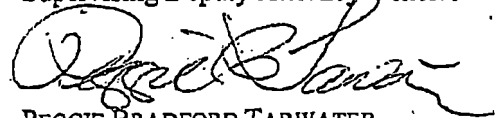
ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 2/24/20

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO
BY: *Uma Nagan* ANALYST
January 23, 2020

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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
Against:

Case No. 800-2016-029031

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

KOUROSH PARSAPOUR, M.D.

400 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1900
Irvine, CA 92618-4934

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 79856,

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
2. On July-17, 2002, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 79856 to Kourosch Parsapour, 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

1 expire on September 30, 2021, unless renewed.

2 **JURISDICTION**

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

6 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
7 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
8 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
9 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

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

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

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

16 (b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

....

6. Health and Safety Code section 11362.5 provides as follows:

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Compassionate Use
Act of 1996.

1 (b)(1) The people of the State of California hereby find and declare that the
2 purposes of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 are as follows:

3 (A) To ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use
4 marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and
5 has been recommended by a physician who has determined that the person's health
6 would benefit from the use of marijuana in the treatment of cancer, anorexia,
7 AIDS, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine, or any other illness
8 for which marijuana provides relief.

9 (B) To ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use
10 marijuana for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not
11 subject to criminal prosecution or sanction.

12 (C) To encourage the federal and state governments to implement a plan to
13 provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients in
14 medical need of marijuana.

15 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede legislation
16 prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that endangers others, nor to
17 condone the diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes.

18 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no physician in this state
19 shall be punished, or denied any right or privilege, for having recommended
20 marijuana to a patient for medical purposes.

21

22 7. Health and Safety Code section 11362.7, subdivision (a) provides:

23 "Attending physician" means an individual who possesses a license in good
24 standing to practice medicine, podiatry, or osteopathy issued by the Medical Board
25 of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or the Osteopathic
26 Medical Board of California and who has taken responsibility for an aspect of the
27 medical care, treatment, diagnosis, counseling, or referral of a patient and who has
28 conducted a medical examination of that patient before recording in the patient's
medical record the physician's assessment of whether the patient has a serious
medical condition and whether the medical use of cannabis is appropriate.

8. Health and Safety Code section 11362.7, subdivision (h), provides that "Serious
medical condition" means all of the following medical conditions:

(1) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

(2) Anorexia.

(3) Arthritis.

(4) Cachexia.

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(5) Cancer.

(6) Chronic pain.

(7) Glaucoma.

(8) Migraine.

(9) Persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, spasms associated with multiple sclerosis.

(10) Seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy.

(11) Severe nausea.

(12) Any other chronic or persistent medical symptom that either:

(A) Substantially limits the ability of the person to conduct one or more major life activities as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).

(B) If not alleviated, may cause serious harm to the patient's safety or physical or mental health.

9. Section 2525.2 of the Code provides:

An individual who possesses a license in good standing to practice medicine or osteopathy issued by the Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California shall not recommend medical cannabis to a patient, unless that person is the patient's attending physician, as defined by subdivision (a) of Section 11362.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

10. Section 2525.3 of the Code states:

Recommending medical cannabis to a patient for a medical purpose without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication constitutes unprofessional conduct.

11. Section 2290.5 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

(a) For purposes of this division, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Asynchronous store and forward" means the transmission of a patient's medical information from an originating site to the health care provider at a distant site without the presence of the patient.

(2) "Distant site" means a site where a health care provider who provides health care services is located while providing these services via a

telecommunications system.

(3) "Health care provider" means either of the following:

(A) A person who is licensed under this division.

....

(4) "Originating site" means a site where a patient is located at the time health care services are provided via a telecommunications system or where the asynchronous store and forward service originates.

(5) "Synchronous interaction" means a real-time interaction between a patient and a health care provider located at a distant site.

(6) "Telehealth" means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.

(b) Prior to the delivery of health care via telehealth, the health care provider initiating the use of telehealth shall inform the patient about the use of telehealth and obtain verbal or written consent from the patient for the use of telehealth as an acceptable mode of delivering health care services and public health. The consent shall be documented.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude a patient from receiving in-person health care delivery services during a specified course of health care and treatment after agreeing to receive services via telehealth.

(d) The failure of a health care provider to comply with this section shall constitute unprofessional conduct. Section 2314 shall not apply to this section.

(e) This section shall not be construed to alter the scope of practice of any health care provider or authorize the delivery of health care services in a setting, or in a manner, not otherwise authorized by law.

(f) All laws regarding the confidentiality of health care information and a patient's rights to his or her medical information shall apply to telehealth interactions.

....

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1 12. Section 2266 of the Code states:

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

5 13. Section 2285 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

6 The use of any fictitious, false, or assumed name, or any name other than his
7 or her own by a licensee either alone, in conjunction with a partnership or group,
8 or as the name of a professional corporation, in any public communication,
9 advertisement, sign, or announcement of his or her practice without a
10 fictitious-name permit obtained pursuant to Section 2415 constitutes
11 unprofessional conduct. . . .

12 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

13 (Gross Negligence)

14 14. Respondent Kourosh Parsapour, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section
15 2234, subdivision (b), in that he was grossly negligent in his care and treatment of fictitious
16 patient, "Patient M.P" and Patient 2.¹ The circumstances are as follows:

17 **Background**

18 15. Respondent is the owner of Weedrecs.com, which began providing marijuana
19 recommendations using an online format in approximately November 2016.

20 16. To be considered for a marijuana recommendation using Weedrecs.com, a patient
21 would fill out and submit an online health questionnaire, which operated as a screening tool.
22 According to Respondent, the questionnaire would then be evaluated. In some, but not all,
23 instances, a phone call to the patient was placed and/or a video conference would be completed.
24 If the patient received approval for a medical marijuana recommendation, the medical
25 recommendation certificate would be provided.

26 **Standard of Care**

27 17. The standard of care for recommending medical marijuana is the same for
28 recommending or prescribing the use of any other medication. The standard of care for

¹ Patient 2 is referred to by number to protect his privacy. To the extent Respondent is not
already aware of Patient 2's identity, that information will be disclosed in discovery.

1 recommending medical marijuana includes providing the recommendation only when it is
2 clinically indicated and only as part of a rational treatment plan that has specific, identifiable
3 goals. All aspects of the process of evaluation and management that support the decision to
4 recommend medical marijuana must be documented. The fundamental standard of practice for all
5 medical care, including the recommendation of marijuana, is to obtain a history and physical
6 examination sufficient to reach a valid clinical conclusion, develop a treatment plan to address the
7 problems at hand, implement the plan, change it as necessary, and document the process in
8 sufficient detail such that a physician with similar training and experience would be able to
9 understand the entirety of the care provided. The standard of care requires obtaining informed
10 consent, advising the patient of the potential benefits and risks of the proposed treatment,
11 soliciting and answering questions, and ascertaining that the patient understands the relevant risks
12 and benefits, and consents to accept the risks in order to obtain the benefits of the proposed
13 treatment. Although the standard of care does not require a physician to perform a detailed
14 background check to verify the identity of a patient, it does require a physician to look at the
15 patient and determine identity to a reasonable degree of certainty.

16 18. The standard of care in using telehealth technologies requires that patient consent be
17 obtained and documented. The standards of practice for telehealth are the same as the standards
18 of practice for face-to-face medicine. Telehealth may be used when it can adequately address the
19 problem under evaluation. It may not be used when there is a need for physical actions that
20 cannot be accomplished through its use.

21 **Patient M.P.**

22 19. On November 16, 2017, Investigator E.C., of the Department of Consumer Affairs,
23 Health Quality Investigations Unit, posing as patient M.P., visited www.weedrecs.com and
24 submitted a request for a marijuana recommendation. Patient M.P. provided a location for
25 mailing the recommendation, a cell phone number, and a credit card. Patient M.P. uploaded a
26 driver's license bearing identifying information for the fictitious patient.

27 ///

28 ///

1 20. Patient M.P. completed an online questionnaire that requested identifying
2 information. The questionnaire included the following questions and responses:

3 Do you have or have you in the past had a problem with substance abuse or
4 addiction?

5 Answer provided: No.

6 Do you suffer from, or have a family history of schizophrenia?

7 Answer provided: No.

8 From the list below, please select the main reason why you want to be
9 evaluated by our medical doctors for their recommendation to use medicinal
10 cannabis:

11 Answer provided: Headaches or migraines.

12 About how long have you been aware of, or suffering from, headaches or
13 migraines?

14 Answer provided: Over 5 years.

15 Please tell us more about your headaches or migraines. [Offered were
16 suggestions to indicate the frequency of the headaches and the negative effects
17 experienced by the patient.]

18 Answer provided: Once a week, can't get out of bed.

19 If you regularly take medications for headaches or migraines, please list
20 them below. Please include the dosage and how often you take the medication.

21 Answer provided: Fioricet, Imitrex, Advil.

22 In the past, have you self-medicated with cannabis for treating your
23 headaches or migraines?

24 Answer provided: Yes.

25 Has using medical cannabis been effective for the treatment of headaches or
26 migraines?

27 Answer provided: Don't know.

28 Do you have concerns about your mental health?

Answer provided: No.

From the list below, please select all the diagnoses from your past medical
history. You may select multiple conditions or select N/A if you have no past
medical history.

Answer provided: N/A.

Do you have any allergies?

Answer provided: No.

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Do you smoke cigarettes?
Answer provided: Sometimes.

Do you drink alcohol?
Answer provided: On social occasions.

Do you have medical files or records of your care that you would like to share with the doctor?
Answer provided: No.

21. The questionnaire ended with a statement that read, "Thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, [M.P.] A doctor will attend to your case as soon as possible. The doctor will NOT call everyone back. If the doctor has any questions, you'll be contacted right away"

22. On November 16, 2017, at 10:33 a.m., Investigator E.C. received a text message from Respondent welcoming Patient M.P. to SMS notification. At 11:13 a.m., Investigator E.C. received a second text message advising that Patient M.P. had been approved for medical cannabis, followed by an emailed PDF of the medical marijuana certificate.

23. Patients can upload medical records; however, Patient M.P. did not do so.

24. Respondent's patient note indicates the patient is a 50-year-old male, without past medical history, presenting with an over five-year history of migraine headaches, with symptoms occurring weekly. The patient has self-medicated with cannabis with "plus or minus" relief. The review of systems is negative for mental health disorders, there are no known drug allergies, the family history is negative for schizophrenia. Patient M.P. is not in school and is not a primary caregiver for children. He occasionally uses tobacco, and uses alcohol socially. The assessment and plan is intractable migraines and a low-risk patient. Cannabis is recommended for symptomatic analgesia to be titrated to effect.

25. No informed consent for the medical marijuana recommendation was obtained.

26. Respondent neither called Patient M.P. nor engaged in a video conference.

27. Respondent believed the case to be a "slam dunk" case of "explicit need."

28. Respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of Patient M.P. as follows:

- 1 a. Respondent failed to identify Patient M.P. to a reasonable degree of certainty.
- 2 b. Respondent failed to document a thorough history in sufficient detail to support the
3 diagnosis of chronic stable migraine and exclude the presence of other, more serious pathology.
- 4 c. Respondent failed to perform a physical examination, including failing to assess vital
5 signs and perform an examination of the head, neck, and neurological systems in the course of
6 evaluation of a patient with intermittent severe headache.
- 7 d. Respondent failed to verify Patient M.P.'s prior treatment, either by review of outside
8 records or by examination of the bottles of Fioricet² and Imitrex.³
- 9 e. Respondent failed to obtain and document detailed informed consent, including a
10 discussion of the risks and benefits of medical marijuana;
- 11 f. Respondent failed to document a specific treatment plan with specific verifiable
12 objectives.

13 **Patient 2**

14 29. Patient 2 ordered an online health questionnaire with a digital copy of a marijuana
15 recommendation from Weedrecs.com on October 20, 2017.

16 30. Medical records from Respondent contain what appear to be Patient 2's responses to
17 the online questionnaire. Patient 2 indicated he could provide a past recommendation for medical
18 marijuana. He denied criminal convictions or a personal or family history of schizophrenia. He
19 selected insomnia as the main reason for his medical marijuana use and stated that marijuana has
20 been useful for that condition. He denied concerns about his mental health. Many other
21 questions remained unanswered. Patient 2 uploaded an image of his driver's license and of a past
22 recommendation for marijuana, which was dated October 14, 2016, with an expiration date of
23 October 14, 2017.

24 31. Patient 2 was approved for a marijuana recommendation on or about October 21,

25 _____
26 ² Fioricet is a combination medication used to treat tension headaches. It contains
27 acetaminophen to decrease pain, caffeine to increase the effects of acetaminophen, and butalbital
28 as a sedative that helps decrease anxiety and cause sleepiness and relaxation.

³ Imitrex (sumatriptan) is a headache medicine that narrows blood vessels around the
brain. Sumatriptan also reduces substances in the body that can trigger headache pain, nausea,
sensitivity to light and sound, and other migraine symptoms.

1 2017. However, no copy of the marijuana recommendation appears in the medical records.

2 32. On October 6, 2018, Patient 2 was sent an automatic email from Weedrecs.com
3 indicating his marijuana recommendation would expire on October 21, 2018 and offering a
4 coupon for \$5.00 off of the price of renewal. Patient 2 was sent additional reminders on or about
5 October 13, 2018, and October 19, 2018.

6 33. The medical records reflect that on October 14, 2018, Patient 2 filled out a renewal
7 form that asked for contact information and answers to six questions, as follows:

8 Have there been any changes in your health in the past year?

9 Answer provided: No.

10 Have there been any significant life changes or notable events in the past year
11 that stand out in your mind?

11 Answer provided: No.

12 From the list below, please select the main reason for which you are being re-
13 evaluated for medicinal cannabis.

13 Answer provided: Problems sleeping at night (insomnia).

14 Has the use of medical cannabis been effective?

15 Answer provided: Yes. Cannabis has been effective.

16 Have you been using any other medications or therapeutics in addition to
17 cannabis?

17 Answer provided: No.

18 Have there been any new issues or events that have impacted your mental
19 health?

20 Answer provided: No.

21 34. Patient 2 signed the renewal form, acknowledging that he understood the policies for
22 marijuana recommendations, which consisted of requirements that he be over 18 years old and
23 physically within the state of California at the time of starting and completing the application.
24 The only other advisements related to the process of paying for and obtaining the
25 recommendation.

26 35. On October 23, 2018, the patient history note indicates that Patient 2's
27 recommendation has been renewed with an expiration date of January 1, 1970. Respondent
28 provided Patient 2 with a marijuana recommendation with an issue date of November 10, 2018,

1 and an expiration date of October 23, 2019.

2 36. Respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of Patient 2 as follows:

3 a. Respondent failed to document a thorough history in sufficient detail to support
4 the diagnosis of insomnia and to exclude other pathology, including stimulant drug abuse and/or
5 the use of other drugs and/or in a manner that allowed Respondent to determine the veracity of
6 the complaints.

7 b. Respondent failed to perform a physical examination of Patient 2 prior to
8 issuing an initial marijuana recommendation.

9 d. Respondent failed to obtain and document detailed informed consent, including
10 a discussion of the risks and benefits of medical marijuana.

11 c. Respondent failed to monitor Patient 2's response to treatment and to re-
12 evaluate him before issuing a one-year renewal of the marijuana recommendation.

13 d. Respondent failed to document the date and duration of each marijuana
14 recommendation.

15 37. Respondent's acts and omissions in his care and treatment of Patient M.P. and Patient
16 2, as set forth above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in some combination thereof,
17 constitute gross negligence in violation of section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, and
18 Respondent's license is subject to discipline.

19 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

21 38. Respondent's acts and omissions, as set forth above in the First Cause for Discipline,
22 constitute repeated negligent acts in violation of section 2234, subdivision (c), of the Code, and
23 Respondent's license is subject to discipline.

24 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

25 (Recommending Medical Marijuana Without an Appropriate Prior Examination
26 and Medical Indication)

27 39. By reason of the allegations set forth above in the First Cause for Discipline,
28 Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2525.3 of the Code in that he

1 recommended medical marijuana to Patient M.C. and Patient 2 without an appropriate prior
2 examination and medical indication.

3 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 (Telemedicine - Failure to Obtain Consent)

5 40. By reason of the allegations set forth in the First Cause for Discipline, Respondent is
6 subject to disciplinary action under section 2290.5, subdivision (b), of the Code in that he failed
7 to obtain and/or document informed consent for the use of telehealth services from Patient M.C.
8 and/or from Patient 2.

9 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)

11 41. By reason of the allegations set forth in the First Cause for Discipline, Respondent is
12 subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he failed to maintain
13 adequate and accurate records.

14 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

15 (Failure to Obtain and Maintain a Fictitious Name Permit)

16 42. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2285 of the Code in that he
17 failed to obtain a fictitious name permit. The circumstances are as follows:

18 43. Respondent provided medical services, consisting of medical marijuana
19 recommendations, under the name "Weedrecs."

20 44. Respondent failed to obtain a fictitious name permit for use of the name
21 "Weedrecs.com."

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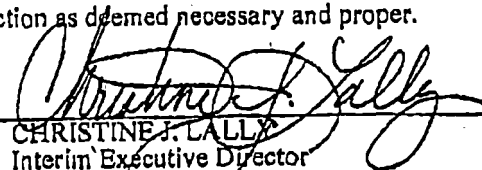
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PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 79856, issued to Respondent Kourosh Parsapour, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent's authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent, 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: JAN 23 2020



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

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