;				
1.	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINE A. RHEE			
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4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 295656 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266			
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7	Telephone: (619) 738-9455 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
8	Attorneys for Complainant	•		
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10	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA			
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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13	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2021-074116		
14	Against:	DEFAULT DECISION		
15	GEORGE WILLIAM WILSON, M.D. 72-780 Country Club Drive	AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
16	Building B, Suite 205A Rancho Mirage, CA 92270	[Gov. Code, §11520]		
17	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335,	·		
18	Respondent.			
19	- Respondent.	·		
20	<u>FINDINGS</u>	OF FACT		
21	1. On or about July 7, 2023, Complainar	nt Reji Varghese, in his official capacity as the		
22	Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, filed			
23	First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-074116 against George William Wilson, M.D.			
24	(Respondent) before the Medical Board of California.			
25	2. On or about December 21, 1964, the Medical Board of California (Board) issued			
26	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335 to 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 December 31, 2023, unless renewed. A true and correct copy of			
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<sup>1</sup> All exhibits are true and correct copies of the originals, and are attached to the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet. The Default Decision Evidence Packet is hereby incorporated by reference, in its entirety, as if fully set forth herein.

Respondent's Certificate of Licensure is attached as Exhibit A to the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet.<sup>1</sup>

- On or about March 15, 2023, Regina Rodriguez, an employee of the Board, served by 3. Certified Mail a copy of Accusation No. 800-2021-074116, Statement to Respondent, Request for Discovery, Notice of Defense, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 72-780 Country Club Drive, Building B, Suite 205A, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. True and correct copies of the Accusation, the aforementioned related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached as Exhibit B in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and are incorporated by reference herein.
- On or about May 1, 2023, Regina Rodriguez, an employee of the Board, served by Certified Mail a copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-074116, Supplemental Statement to Respondent, Supplemental Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 72-780 Country Club Drive, Building B, Suite 205A, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. True and correct copies of the First Amended Accusation, the aforementioned related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached as Exhibit C in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and are incorporated herein by reference.
- Service of the Accusation and First Amended Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).
- 6. On or about March 29, 2023, Deputy Attorney General Christine A. Rhee (DAG Rhee) received an email from Carolyn Lindholm, Esq., stating that she represented Respondent. (Exhibit D, ¶ 6.) DAG Rhee and Ms. Lindholm agreed to an extension of the Notice of Defense filing deadline to April 13, 2023. (Exhibit D, \( \Pi \) 6.) From approximately March to July 2023, DAG Rhee continued communication with Ms. Lindholm about the instant case and about settling the matter via a license surrender. (Exhibit D,  $\P$  7.)

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- 12. To date, Respondent has not filed a Notice of Defense. (Exhibit D, ¶ 12.)
- 13. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him of both the Accusation and First Amended Accusation, and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-074116.
  - 14. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.
  - 15. California Business and Professions Code section 125.3 states:
  - (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
  - (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.
  - (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.
  - (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).
  - (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.
  - (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
  - (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.

18. Section 2234 of the Business and Professions Code, states, in pertinent part:

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

- (b) Gross negligence.
- (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitute the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
- 19. Business and Professions Code section 2266 states that the failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.
- 20. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2220, 2227, and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of Patient A and Patient B, as more particularly alleged hereafter:
  - a. Respondent inappropriately prescribed hydroxychloroquine and/or azithromycin to Patient A, putting Patient A at risk for a serious adverse event or death;
  - b. Respondent failed to document and/or failed to properly store medical records pertaining to his telephone encounter to treat Patient A for COVID-19, prescribe medications to Patient A to treat COVID-19, and discuss the risks and benefits of prescribing these high risk medications off-label to Patient A.

c.	Respondent inappropriately prescribed hydroxychloroquine and/or
azithromyo	in to Patient B, putting patient B at risk for a serious adverse event or death; and

- d. Respondent failed to document and/or failed to properly store medical records pertaining to his telephone encounter to treat Patient B for COVID-19, prescribe medications to Patient B to treat COVID-19, and discuss the risks and benefits of prescribing these high risk medications off-label to Patient B. (Exhibit F, ¶ 6.)
- 21. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate

  No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2220, 2227, and 2234, as defined by section

  2234, subdivision (c), of the Code, in that he committed repeated negligent acts in the care and
  treatment of Patient A and Patient B, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 20, above, which
  is hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 22. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate

  No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2220, 2227, and 2234, as defined by section

  2266, of the Code, in that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate records for the care and
  treatment of Patient A and Patient B, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 20, above, which
  is hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 23. The costs of investigation and enforcement of this case prayed for in the First Amended Accusation total \$24,746.00. (Exhibit D, ¶ 18.)

#### **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

- 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent George William Wilson, M.D., has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335 to discipline.
- 2. True and correct copies of the First Amended Accusation, the related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached.
  - 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- 4. The Medical Board of California is authorized to revoke Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate based on the following violations alleged in the First Amended Accusation:

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1	vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.  SEP 2 2 2023
2	This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on  AUG 2 3 2023
3	It is so ORDERED
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6	JENNA JONES FOR
7	Reji Varghese, Executive Director FOR THE MEDICAL BOARD OF
8	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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1	Rob Bonta			
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINE A. RHEE			
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 295656			
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101			
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266			
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9455 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
8	Attorneys for Complainant			
9	BEFORE THE			
10	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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12				
13	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2021-074116		
14	Against:	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION		
15	GEORGE WILLIAM WILSON, M.D. 72-780 Country Club Drive, Building B,			
16	Suite 205A Rancho Mirage, CA 92270			
17 18	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335,			
19	Respondent.			
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21	D A D7	TIEC		
22	PART  1 Reji Verghese (Complement) brings t	<del></del>		
23	1. Reji Verghese (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California,			
24	Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).	of the Medical Board of Cantornia,		
25	· · · · ·	Medical Roard issued Dhygician's and Surgeon's		
26	2. On or about December 21, 1964, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335 to George William Wilson, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and			
27				
28	Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2023, unless renewed.			
	1			
		ST AMENDED ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-074116		

### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This First Amended Accusation, which supersedes the Accusation filed on March 15, 2023, is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
    - (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
  - (2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
  - (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
  - (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
  - (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
  - 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states, in pertinent part:

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

- (b) Gross negligence.
- (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but

not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

6. Section 2266 of the Code states that the failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.

### **COST RECOVERY**

- 7. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
- (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.
- (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.
- (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.
- (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any

licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid costs.

- (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Gross Negligence)

8. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patients A and B, I as more particularly alleged hereafter:

#### Patient A

9. In or around December 2020, Patient A, an 85-year old male, was an established patient of Respondent, a primary care physician. Patient A had a history of heart disease that was known to Respondent. On or about December 9, 2020, Patient A's wife spoke to Respondent on the phone. She told Respondent that she and her husband had tested positive for COVID-19. At that time, due to the pandemic, Respondent was not seeing COVID-19 patients in person. Patient A's wife told Respondent that Patient A was having breathing issues. Respondent issued prescriptions for azithromycin<sup>2</sup> and hydroxychloroquine<sup>3</sup> to treat Patient A.

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The patients' names have been omitted to protect their privacy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Azithromycin, brand name Zithromax, is an antibiotic, with known adverse reactions for patients with cardiovascular disease.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hydroxychloroquine, brand name Plaquenil, is a medication used to treat malaria and lupus. On or about March 28, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) permitting licensed practitioners to prescribe hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 in adolescent and adult patients who weigh 50 kilograms or more, are hospitalized for COVID-19, and for whom a clinical trial is not available or participation is not feasible. On or about June 15, 2020, the FDA revoked the EUA for hydroxychloroquine because it was no longer reasonable to believe that the medication may be effective in treating COVID-19, nor was it reasonable to believe that the known potential benefits of this medication outweigh the known and potential risks.

- 10. On or about December 11, 2020, Respondent faxed the azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine prescriptions to a pharmacy. In response to Respondent's faxed prescriptions, a pharmacist informed Respondent that she would not fill the prescriptions for Patient A because hydroxychloroquine did not benefit most patients and had negative side effects. Shortly thereafter, Respondent contacted another pharmacy, which filled the azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine prescriptions for Patient A without incident.
- 11. On or about December 14, 2020, Patient A went to the hospital for low oxygen saturation and dehydration. In the emergency department, after Patient A's oxygen levels improved, he went home.
- 12. On or about December 16, 2020, Patient A's wife called Respondent and reported that Patient A's oxygen levels were decreasing. On or about the same day, Patient A was admitted to the hospital for acute respiratory failure with hypoxia secondary to COVID-19 pneumonia and cardiac ischemia. At admission, Patient A's oxygen saturation was in the mideighties. At the hospital, Patient A was given supportive therapies. On or about December 26, 2020, given Patient A's poor prognosis, his family elected to pursue comfort measures at home. Patient A died on or about December 27, 2020.
- 13. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Respondent inappropriately prescribed hydroxychloroquine and/or azithromycin to Patient A, putting Patient A at risk for a serious adverse event or death; and
  - b. Respondent failed to document and/or failed to properly store medical records pertaining to his telephone encounter to treat Patient A for COVID-19, prescribe medications to treat COVID-19, and discuss the risks and benefits of prescribing these high risk medications off-label.

#### Patient B

14. In or around December 2020, Patient B, a 72-year old female, was an established patient of Respondent. Patient B was Patient A's wife. Patient B had a history of cardiac conduction delay and hypokalemia that was known to Respondent. On or about December 9,

2020, Patient B spoke to Respondent on the phone. She told Respondent that her husband, Patient A, had tested positive for COVID-19, and that both she and her husband were experiencing symptoms. At that time, due to the pandemic, Respondent was not seeing COVID-19 patients in person. Respondent issued prescriptions for azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine to treat Patient B.

- 15. On or about December 11, 2020, Respondent sent prescriptions for azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine to a pharmacy for Patient B. Patient B received the prescribed medications on or about December 12, 2020.
- 16. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient B which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Respondent inappropriately prescribed hydroxychloroquine and/or azithromycin to Patient B, putting Patient B at risk for a serious adverse event or death; and
  - b. Respondent failed to document and/or failed to properly store medical records pertaining to his telephone encounter to treat Patient B for COVID-19, prescribe medications to treat COVID-19, and discuss the risks and benefits of prescribing these high risk medications off-label.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Repeated Negligent Acts)

17. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
subdivision (c), of the Code, in that he committed repeated negligent acts in his care and
treatment of Patients A and B, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 16, above,
which are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)

18. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate

No. G 10335 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of
the Code, in that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in his care and treatment of

1	Patients A and B, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 17, above, which are		
2	hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.		
3	<u>PRAYER</u>		
4	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,		
5	and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:		
6	1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 10335, issued		
7	to Respondent George William Wilson, M.D.;		
8	2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent George William Wilson,		
9	M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;		
10	3. Ordering Respondent George William Wilson, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of th		
11	investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation		
12	monitoring; and		
13	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.		
14			
15	DATED: MAY 0 1 2023		
16	REJI VERGHESE Interim Executive Director		
17	Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs State of California		
18	Complainant		
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