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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Chickkiah Padmanabhan, M.D.

Case No. 800-2021-077677

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887

Respondent.

#### DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 January 19, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED December 21, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

JENNA JONES KOR

Reji Varghese

**Executive Director** 

1	Rob Bonta	•	
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285973 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6198 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117		
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7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE		
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2021-077677	
13	CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D. 44215 15th Street West, Suite 207 Lancaster, CA 93534	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER	
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate		
15	No. A 38887,		
16	Respondent.		
17			
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AG	REED by and between the parties to the above-	
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:	
20	<u>PART</u>	CIES	
21	1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Ex	xecutive Director of the Medical Board of	
22	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this		
23	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Latrice R. Hemphill, Deput		
24	Attorney General.		
25	2. CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this		
26	proceeding by attorney Vincent Maeder, Esq., whose address is: 1851 East First Street, Suite		
27	750, Santa Ana, CA 92705.		
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3. On or about August 2, 1982, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2021-077677 and will expire on July 31, 2024, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 800-2021-077677 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 18, 2023. Respondent filed a Notice of Consideration for Stipulated Surrender in response to the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2021-077677 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

#### **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-077677. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 800-2021-077677, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887 for the Board's formal acceptance.

9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

#### **RESERVATION**

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

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ... stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.
- 14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to

- 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.
- 17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

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#### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887, issued to Respondent CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2021-077677 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,828.75 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2021-077677 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 7. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,828.75 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

#### ACCEPTANCE 1 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully 2 discussed it with my attorney Vincent Maeder, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it 3 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of 4 License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the 5 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California. 6 DATED: 7 10/11/2023 CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D. 8 Respondent 9 10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D. 11 the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this \$tipulated Surrender of License and 12 Order. I approve its form and content. 13 DATED: 10/11/2023 14 15 **ENDORSEMENT** 16 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted 17 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. 18 19 Respectfully submitted, DATED: 20 ROB BONTA Attorney General of California 21 JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General 22 23 LATRICE R. HEMPHILL 24 Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant 25 26

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1	ACCEPTANCE		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully		
3	discussed it with my attorney Vincent Maeder, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect		
4	will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of		
5	License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
6	Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.		
7	DATED:		
8	CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D.  Respondent		
9			
0	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D.		
1	the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and		
2	Order. I approve its form and content.		
3	DATED:		
4	VINCENT MAEDER, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
5			
6	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
7	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted		
8	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.		
.9	DATED: October 11, 2023 Respectfully submitted,		
20	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
21	JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
22	Tremphil		
24	LATRICE R, HEMPHILL		
25	Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant		
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1 2 3	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285973 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702	•
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6198 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant	
7		
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11		
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2021-077677
13	CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D. 44215 15th Street West, Suite 207	ACCUSATION
14	Lancaster, CA 93534	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38887,	
16	Respondent	
17		
18	PAR	TIES
20		this Accusation solely in his official capacity as
21	the Executive Director of the Medical Board of 0	
22	(Board).	
23	2. On or about August 2, 1982, the Med	dical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
24	Certificate Number A 38887 to Chickkiah Padmanabhan, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's	
25	and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought	
26	herein and will expire on July 31, 2024, unless renewed.	
27	<i>///</i>	
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(CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-077677

#### JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation 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:
  - (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.
  - (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.
  - 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

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

(CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-077677

(CHICKKIAH PADMANABHAN, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2021-077677

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(Gross Negligence/Repeated Negligent Acts)

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

- 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivisions (b) and (c), of the Code in that he was repeatedly and grossly negligent in the care and treatment of Patient A.<sup>1</sup> The circumstances are as follows:
- 14. Respondent is a surgeon and primary care practitioner, who owns a solo practice in Lancaster, California. In March 2021, Respondent had medical privileges at Antelope Valley Hospital, Antelope Valley Surgical Center, and Palmdale Regional Medical Center.
- 15. Patient A was a sixty-four (64) year old woman who presented to Antelope Valley Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) on or about March 13, 2021. Patient A complained of abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Dr. P.K., a physician in the ED, completed a consultation with Patient A, documenting her medical history, which included a gastric bypass procedure in 1995, and present symptoms. Dr. P.K. determined that Patient A was acidotic and hypotensive. Patient A was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).
- 16. Patient A was sent for a surgery consult with Respondent. Respondent recommended a gastrointestinal evaluation and a sigmoidoscopy with possible fecal dis-impaction. On or about March 14, 2021, Respondent performed an exploratory laparotomy of the abdomen, along with a colectomy and ileostomy. Following the procedures, Patient A experienced significant postoperative bleeding.
- 17. On or about March 15, 2021, because of the persistent postoperative bleeding, Respondent performed a secondary exploratory laparotomy surgery on Patient A. During the procedure, Respondent noted that Patient A had hematomas.<sup>2</sup>
- 18. Following the procedure, Patient A was putting out significant frank blood from the right drain and required multiple blood transfusions. Another physician on duty, Dr. S.C., discussed Patient A's case with Respondent. Respondent felt that the patient did not require a repeat laparotomy. Respondent reevaluated Patient A in the ICU and stated that the patient does

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The patient is identified as "Patient A" in this Accusation to protect her privacy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A hematoma is a bruise that forms when an injury causes blood to collect and pool under the skin.

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not require surgery despite the recurrent blood transfusions and active bleeding from the drain. Respondent felt that the blood loss was expected postoperatively.

- Dr. S.C. requested the assistance of a secondary surgeon and contacted the chief of 19. surgery to discuss Patient A's case. All other physicians, working on Patient A's case, agreed that she needed emergency surgery. Dr. J.B. agreed to perform the surgery and discussed the procedure in detail with Patient A's spouse beforehand.
- On or about March 15, 2021, Dr. J.B. performed a damage control laparotomy on Patient A. During the surgery, Dr. J.B. drained about four to five liters of blood from Patient A's abdominal cavity. Dr. J.B. noted several areas of bleeding, including Patient A's spleen and the left inferior epigastric artery.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, Dr. J.B. performed a splenectomy and placed Hemoclips<sup>4</sup> on the artery to control the bleeding. Dr. J.B. also found that about 10 centimeters of the left ureter<sup>5</sup> was missing, and the proximal and distal end of the ureter seemed to be coagulated. After an intraoperative consultation with another physician, Dr. J.B. was instructed to Hemoclip the proximal and distal end of the severed left ureter to prevent any leakage of urine.
- Patient A underwent at least two more laparotomies, on or about March 17 and March 23, 2021. Patient A developed multiple organ dysfunction and abnormal liver function. Patient A was eventually transferred to another hospital for continued care.
- The standard of care requires a physician to thoroughly search and identify all sources 22. of bleeding when performing a secondary exploratory laparotomy.
- 23. When Respondent performed the secondary laparotomy, he noted the hematomas but did not determine the source of Patient A's bleeding. On the contrary, Respondent indicated that the blood loss was expected. However, when Dr. J.B. performed an additional laparotomy, he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The left inferior epigastric artery is an artery that supplies blood to your abdominal

muscles

4 Hemoclips are metallic devices that are firmly attached to the tissue around a bleeding point to seal bleeding vessels.

5 Ureter is the duct through which urine passes from the kidney to the bladder.