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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:

Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D.

Case No. 800-2019-055307

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 63394

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 March 4, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED February 26, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Reji Varghese Executive Director

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
2	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		
4			
5			
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6198 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9			
10			
11	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-055307	
12	ERIK JOSEPH WILK, M.D.	OAH No. 2022070570	
13 14	1117 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2712	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 63394,		
16	Respondent.		
17		1	
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AC	EREED by and between the parties to the above-	
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters ar	e true:	
20	<u></u>	TIES	
21	-	Executive Director of the Medical Board of	
22	California (Board). He blought this action solely in the objection of		
23	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the Blate of Camerana, of		
24	Attorney General.		
25	11	t) is representing himself in this proceeding and	
26	has chosen not to exercise his right to be represe		
27	II .	pard issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	
28	No. A 63394 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the		
		1	

15

17 18

20

19

22

23

21

24

25

26 27 28 charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307 and will expire on October 31, 2024, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307 was filed before the Board, and is 4. currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 9, 2022. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the First Amended Accusation. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in First 5. Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a 6. hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at his own expense; 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.
- Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in First Amended 8. Accusation No. 800-2019-055307, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- For the purpose of resolving the First Amended Accusation without the expense and 9. uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the First Amended Accusation and that those charges

constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.

10. 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.

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 63394 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 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 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 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the

Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 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:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 63394, issued to Respondent ERIK JOSEPH WILK, 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 he ever applies for licensure or petitions for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board may treat it as a new application for licensure. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for licensure in effect at the time the application or petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307 may be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the application or petition.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$35,822.50 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 First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307 maybe deemed 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.

ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED:	February 2, 2024	ENORMO
		ERIK JOSEPH WILK, M.D. Respondent
///		

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. DATED: February 5, 2024 Respectfully submitted, ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2022600642 66192775.docx

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2019-055307

1 2	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO					
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General TAN N, TRAN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 197775 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6535 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117					
4						
5						
6	Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant					
7 8	BEFORE THE					
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
11						
12	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-055307				
13	ERIK JOSEPH WILK, M.D.	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION				
14	1117 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2712					
15 16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 63394,					
17	Respondent,					
18						
19	PAR					
20	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his					
21	official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of					
22	Consumer Affairs (Board). 2. On or about August 29, 1997, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate					
23						
24	Number A 63394 to Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's					
25	Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will					
26	expire on October 31, 2022, unless renewed.					
27	<i>'</i>					
28	///					
	1 (ERIK JOSEPH WILK, M.D.) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION NO. 800-2019-055307					
	[(Eldy logs; I. alpy, live), mer					

JURISDICTION

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

///

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

1	(d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5.			
2	9. Section 2266 of the Code states:			
3	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.			
4				
5	COST RECOVERY			
6	10. Business and Professions Code section 125:3 states that:			
7	(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			
8	Osteopathic Medical Board upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the			
9	violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.			
10	(b) In the case of a disciplined licentiate that is a corporation or a partnership,			
11	the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity of licensed partitionship.			
12	(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			
13	designated representative shall be prima facte evidence of reasonable costs of			
14	investigation and prosecution of the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.			
15 16	(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			
17	pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard pursuant to subdivision (a). The board to increase the cost award. The board			
18	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).			
19	A No. 1 and a few recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as			
20	directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any			
21	the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.			
22	(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.			
23	(a)(1) Freezet as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or			
24	reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.			
25	(2) Netwithstanding paragraph (1) the board may, in its discretion,			
26	conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the needs of the			
27				
28				
	II			

2

- (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.
- (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section 11. 2234, subdivision (c), of the Code for the commission of acts or omissions involving repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of Patient 1.1 The circumstances are as follows:

Patient 1

- Patient I (or "patient") a then sixty-five-year-old female, who treated with 12. Respondent from approximately 2014 through 2018.² Patient 1 suffered from various conditions including major depression³ and chronic pain. Per CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System, a drug monitoring database for Schedule II through V controlled substances dispensed in California), Respondent was prescribing to Patient 1 dangerous controlled medications including oxycodone (an opiate painkiller), hydrocodone (opiate painkiller), clonazepam/Klonopin (a Schedule IV benzodiazepine used to treat seizures, panic disorder, and anxiety), and alprazolam/Xanax (a benzodiazepine).4
- 13. During the above time period, Respondent treated the patient at her personal residence approximately once a month. Respondent did not have an office and only performed

² These are approximate dates based on the records available to the Board.

³ Specifically, Patient 1's depression and anxiety was brought upon by the prolonged illnesses and ultimate deaths of her parents and husband, spanning the period of 2004 to 2014.

¹ The patient is identified by number to protect her privacy.

Patient 1 was the primary caregiver for her parents and husband.

These controlled medications are also considered dangerous drugs pursuant to section 4022 of the Code. It should also be noted that the patient admitted to Respondent that she [i.e. the patient] would take opiates (e.g., hydrocodone), which should only be used for pain management not anxiety, when she felt depressed and emotionally overwhelmed with her life stressors. The patient also confided in with Respondent that she [i.e., the patient] drank alcohol on occasion to reduce her pain.

house calls. Patient 1 was referred to Respondent to manage her chronic pain. Respondent did not perform any tests prior to prescribing the patient medications nor did he consult with her prior treating orthopedist or obtain her medical records.⁵ The patient subsequently filed a complaint against Respondent alleging that Respondent prescribed excessive amounts of benzodiazepines, opiates, and anti-depressants, which resulted in significant personal life issues for her.⁶

- 14. Respondent committed the following acts and/or omissions in his care and treatment of Patient 1 which represent simple departures from the standard of care:
 - A. The failure to offer non-opiate management of chronic pain and the failure to adequately corroborate the severity of the patient's pain;
 - B. The failure to perform appropriate opioid risk stratification;⁷
 - C. The absence of multi-disciplinary pain management in treating the patient who had elevated addiction risks;
 - D. The failure to perform routine urine toxicology screens, and the failure to review CURES (or keep copies in patient's chart) to ensure medication compliance and rule out prescriptions from other sources;
 - E. The decision to prescribe long term opiate therapy to a 65-year-old patient;
 - F. The failure to offer naloxone therapy to the patient who was on an excessive MED (Morphine Equivalent Dose);8
 - G. The decision to prescribe two short acting narcotics (oxycodone and hydrocodone) with similar pharmacokinetics, thereby exposing the patient to an increased risk of addiction and toxicity;

Despite Respondent's assertion that he examined the patient during the majority of the house calls, it appeared from the records that monthly prescriptions were simply refilled without thorough assessments. Moreover, per the records, there was not one single urine testing during the three and a half years of chronic opiate pain management, and no documentation that Respondent frequently queried CURES.

According to the patient, she, not the Respondent, would often self-taper down the

⁶ According to the patient, she, not the Respondent, would often self-taper down the medications. Specifically, the patient asserted that from approximately June 2015 through August 2015, Respondent had her on such a high dose of oxycodone and hydrocodone at the same time, that she refused to take the oxycodone.

The patient's major depression, anxiety and occasional drinking all pointed toward an increased risk of opiate dependency. Respondent failed to recognize these addiction risks as he failed to perform a proper risk stratification prior to initiating long term opiate therapy in 2014.

*MED are values that represent the potency of an opioid dose relative to morphine.

Patients taking 50 or greater MED daily are more at risk for problems related to opioid use. Very high dosages are 90 or greater MED a day. As the patient was receiving more than 100 tablets of narcotics monthly, opiate diversion and compliance should be closely monitored.

- H. Inadequate chart documentation in opiate monitoring;
- I. The failure to refer Patient 1 for a mental health consultation;
- J. The failure to adequately perform a comprehensive anxiety evaluation, and the decision to rely on long term benzodiazepine therapy to manage General Anxiety
- K. Prescribing two benzodiazepines for anxiety management; and
- L. Concurrent prescribing of two benzodiazepines (clonazepam and
- The above acts or omissions constitute repeated negligent acts under the Code, and

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Excessive Prescribing)

16. By reason of the facts and allegations set forth in the First Cause for Discipline above, Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section 725 of the Code, in that Respondent excessively prescribed dangerous drugs to Patient 1, above.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Furnishing Dangerous Drugs without a Prior Examination or Medical Indication)

By reason of the facts and allegations set forth in the First Cause for Discipline above, Respondent Brik Joseph Wilk, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code, in that Respondent furnished dangerous drugs to Patient 1 above, without conducting an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records)

18. By reason of the facts and allegations set forth in the First Cause for Discipline above, Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code, in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of his care and

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 63394, issued to Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering Respondent Erik Joseph Wilk, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

	G 0 9 2022	MILIAM PRASI
DATED:		WITT JAM PRASI

Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California

State of California Complainant